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The  
Story  
of  
Bristol.







ST. JOHN'S GATEWAY.

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# THE STORY OF BRISTOL:

A BRIEF HISTORY FOR YOUNG CITIZENS.

BY

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WITH MAPS, PLANS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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## PREFACE.

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**I**N studying most subjects, it is well to seek illustrations in the things near us, and to make as much use of them as we can. This is certainly true in the case of History.

There are, of course, many young readers who have little opportunity of doing this, for it is not given to everyone to live in a place with a history worth the name. Bristolians, however, have no such ground of complaint. Theirs is one of the most historic of cities, and the story of Bristol is linked at nearly every point with the chain of our country's history.

The city is rich in those memorials which are apart from books and writings. In spite of constant progress, and the necessary destruction of many things which have become time-worn and useless, there is not an important period in the history of our land which cannot still, in one way or another, be associated with some existing landmark.

This little book aims then, at helping its readers to gain familiar interest in the events of our national history through our city's story, and at making the

main points clear by connecting them with actual relics, which readers can find and examine for themselves.

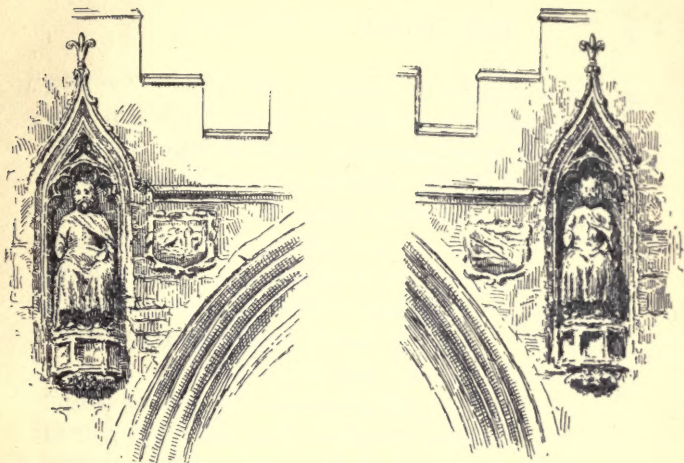
The more experienced readers into whose hands the book may fall will scarcely need to be told that the writer makes no claim to original research. In compiling a simple narrative for the use of young readers, he has made what he trusts will be considered a judicious comparison of texts. Among these may be mentioned the shire histories of Atkyns and Rudder, the well-known writings of Barrett, Seyer, Evans, Pryce, Nicholls and Taylor, and such modern works as the Rev. W. Hunt's "Bristol," the late Mr. Latimer's "Annals," and the very engaging and valuable book quite recently written by Mr. Alfred Harvey, M.B., as well as Mr. Stanley Hutton's carefully collated volume of "Famous Associations."

The perusal of many of the contributions to such invaluable publications as the "Proceedings of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society" has made it possible to deal with confidence with some of the perilous topics which must perforce claim some treatment, even in the most slender of books about Bristol.

W. L. D.

BRISTOL, 1906.





FIGURES ON ST. JOHN'S GATEWAY.

## CHAPTER I.

### Early Legends and Landmarks.

EVERY young Bristolian must have seen the ancient archway at the foot of Broad Street, above which is built the tower of the Church of St. John the Baptist. St. John's is one of the oldest of our city churches. The present building was erected in the fourteenth century, but it took the place of a much earlier church. The great town gateway was rebuilt at the same time, and it may easily be believed that the builders made use

of any suitable materials belonging to the older gateway which had stood there, in one fashion or another, since early Norman times.

We should like to believe that the two time-worn figures which adorn the Broad Street side of the gateway, just above the arch, looked into the old city, as they do now, many long years before the time of the present building. A very old story tells us they did so, and relates that the builders of the Perpendicular church and gateway placed the two effigies in their present positions because they believed them to be the statues of Brennus and Belinus, the fabled founders of Bristol Town.

It is by no means certain that the figures were placed there for any such reason, and we are quite sure that people in these days believe no more in the founding of Bristol by the two heroes just mentioned, than in the founding of London by King Lud, or of Rome by Remus and Romulus.

Such legends, however, do not die very easily, and we do not wish them to do so. According to the venerable fable we are considering, Brennus and Belinus were the sons of a British king who lived four centuries before the Christian era. At the head of a vast army of Gauls, they marched into Italy, and after a fierce onslaught upon Rome, massacred most of the inhabitants and laid waste the greater part of the city. The



defenders, however, made a valiant stand at the great temple called the Capitol, and successfully resisted their assailants. Even the Capitol nearly succumbed to a night attack. The British soldiers, however, awakened the Roman geese, and the cackling of these aroused Manlius, the heroic Roman leader, who saved the sacred stronghold.

Brennus consented to withdraw on being paid an immense ransom, but provided false balances for the weighing of the gold. When the Romans complained of this, the British prince arrogantly cast his sword into the scales, and shouted the ever famous taunt, "Woe to the vanquished."

Such are the world-renowned exploits of the legendary founders of Bristol. Utterly incredible as we must regard any connection between this early story of Rome and the origin of our own city, it was accepted in olden times by Bristol historians. Shortly after the building of St. John's Church, Robert Ricart, Town Clerk of Bristol, compiled his famous record called the "Kalendar" of the "Maire of Bristowe." This book contains the statement that Brennus first founded and built the worshipful town of Bristol and set it upon a little hill, between the St. Nicholas' Gate, St. John's Gate, St. Leonard's Gate and "one more gate," (New Gate).

Reliable history gives us no reason for supposing there was any kind of settlement on the ground occupied by the ancient part of the city, until the later Saxon times. The ancient Britons and their Roman conquerors had their strongholds on the hills around us; but so far as we know, they left untouched the "little hill" and the neighbouring lowlands.

The district around our city still abounds in memorials of very early inhabitants. We have to go no further than Clifton Down to see one of the strongholds called British Camps. According to a very ancient legend, a community settled on the banks of the Avon before the times of the Romans, at *Caer Odor*—the City of the Chasm. Although the name is by no means reliable, it will be seen that it would admirably suit the dwelling-place at Observatory Hill, which overlooks the great Avon Gorge.

If you wish to examine Clifton Camp, first stand on the level ground between the Promenade and the river bank, and look towards the Observatory. The high walls of earth which stand round the edge of the little plateau upon which the Observatory tower stands, still show how truly the place was a fortress. A triple line of earthen walls enclosed the encampment, and these may still be traced, and the deep ditches can yet be seen.

The visitor should climb the hill by the



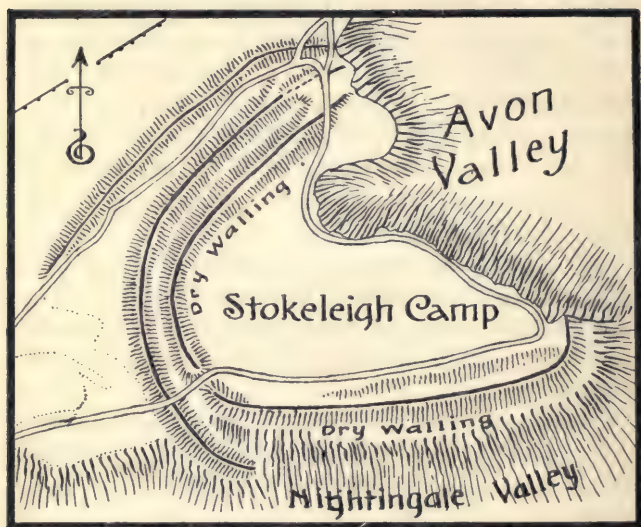
steep path at the edge of the cliff, and walk along the top of the inmost wall. In the north-west corner of the level space, it is possible to trace, by means of the low lines of raised ground, the inner work probably added by the Roman soldiers, who captured and used the stronghold. A short walk along the wall leads to the place where the Observatory is approached by way of the modern path from Clifton; but before reaching this, the explorer should search for the spot where a gap in the walls indicates the ancient entrance.

At the south-eastern end, the work of the quarryman has almost destroyed the walls; but the low rampart which bounded the inner area on the north-western side can be seen very plainly.

It is possible that this small camp of four and-a-half acres merely formed the citadel of a settlement which extended for a considerable distance along the Gloucestershire bank of the river, right on to Durdham Down, for there still abound features suggestive of the handiwork of a primitive people.

Just across the river, hidden amongst the great forest trees which cover the bold promontory on the seaward side of Nightingale Valley, are the wondrous remains of another British encampment,—truly a buried city. So perfect are the walls of Stokeleigh

Camp, rising in places to a height of thirty feet above the ditches below, that here and there the alignment of the dry-walling is as perfect as though the stones were put in place but yesterday.



STOKELEIGH CAMP.

The roadway from the Suspension Bridge, on the same side of the river, cuts through the site of yet another camp, called Burgh Walls, a few traces of which are still to be seen.

Very many of the commanding highlands in the country around Bristol are crowned with the walls and ditches of the oval-shaped



camps ascribed to the Britons. In Gloucestershire, these are to be seen at Henbury, Tytherington, Winterbourne and Lansdown; and in Somersetshire at Stantonbury, Maes Knoll, Cadbury and Portbury. Just before the time of Julius Cæsar's invasion, the Avon divided the territories of two tribes, the Dobuni, who dwelt on the north, and the Belgæ on the south; and there is little doubt that many of the neighbouring encampments indicate the spots where these natives gathered to resist the powerful Roman invaders.

Before we pass to the next chapter in the story of our home, let us endeavour to picture in our minds what the country where Bristol now stands must have looked like, in the distant age we have been considering.

Let us, in fancy, take our stand on Brandon Hill, or upon the heights of Kingsdown, and look across the wide tract now covered by the busier and blacker parts of the great industrial town. Now we have spread before us the densely-packed homes and working-places of hundreds of thousands of people. Two thousand years ago, it was a great unpeopled place, for the early Britons avoided the lowlands in fixing their dwelling-places. Much of the country consisted of marsh-land, soddened by the flood waters of the Avon and Frome and the many streams which fed

them, then the haunt of the beaver. The rising ground was forest-country, where roamed the bear, the wolf, the wild boar, and other fierce creatures now unknown in our country.

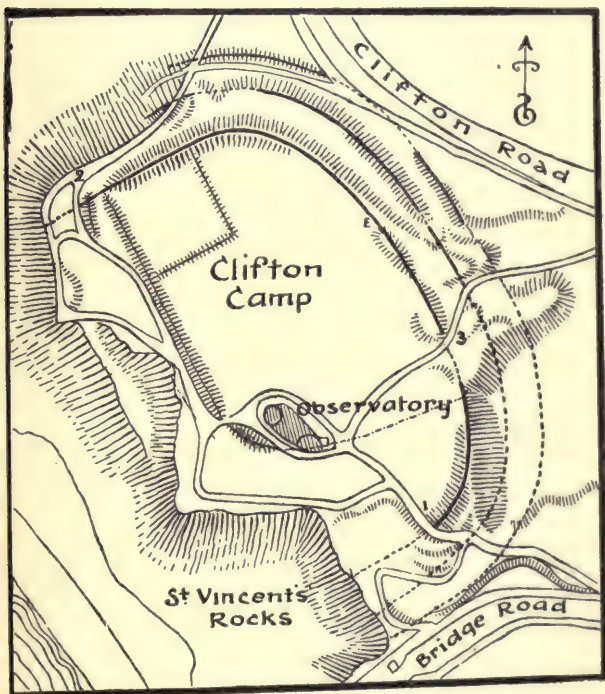
On the hills around were the homes of a half-savage people, who fixed their abodes in places which, before all things, gave them opportunities to watch the movements and to defend themselves against the frequent attacks of their many enemies.

These ancient Britons must have been a hardy race, for they endured, with but scant protection, the bitter winter winds which assailed them on the bleak highlands. They had learned to fashion rude garments of skins, and some of them could make and use woollen cloth. To gain shelter from wind and rain, they made pits in the ground, which they roofed with woven branches, and sometimes lined with stonework. Some of the hollows to be seen near the edge of the cliff on Durdham Down are quite likely to be the remains of such dwelling-places.

They possessed wonderful skill in the fashioning of their tools and weapons from flint and bronze. Many of these primitive implements may be seen in our City Museum. It is worth the while of every reader to examine one set in the collection, consisting of three beautifully-shaped bronze axe-heads



and a chisel or dagger. These were dug up in Coombe Dingle a few years ago by a Bristol schoolboy, one of the writer's pupils, and are good examples of the implements made and used by the men who dwelt here long before the Romans invaded our shores.



CLIFTON CAMP.



A ROMAN RELIC FROM SEA MILLS.

## CHAPTER II.

### The Romans in the Bristol District.

THE Emperor Claudius I., who reigned in Rome from A.D. 41 to A.D. 54, was eager to add to his dominions the distant island of Britain, which had been twice visited by the famous general and writer Julius Cæsar, nearly a hundred years before.

In the year 43, he sent to our shores a



great army of 40,000 men, comprising the second, ninth, fourteenth and twentieth legions. This force was commanded by Aulus Plautius, and under him served Vespasian, who afterwards became Emperor.

Plautius fought many stubborn battles against the Britons, but, except in the south and south-east, met with no great success, although he probably overran our own part of the country.

His successor, Ostorius Scapula, who was here from 47 to 50, made a determined attempt to subdue the Silures, the people of the southern half of Wales. These held out under the gallant Caractacus, a son of the King Cymbeline made famous by Shakespeare's play. At length the British leader was defeated at a terrible battle in Shropshire, and was sent a captive to Rome. Ostorius never became really the master of the Silures; but he secured the conquered part of the island against the brave Westerners, by building a great many forts near the Severn and the Avon. It is therefore likely that the entrenchments on the hills in our neighbourhood, where Roman and British work are associated, are memorials of this famous general.

In the year 75, Julius Frontinus attempted the task which had baffled Ostorius, and he met with considerable success.



RUINS OF SUDBROOK CHAPEL.

Just across the Severn, near the point where formerly stood the pier used by the steamboats which carried our traffic across the river, and almost exactly over the spot where the Severn Tunnel reaches Monmouthshire, the probable landing-place of Frontinus may still be seen. One half of Sudbrook Camp stands to this day on the bank of the Severn,—the other half has been washed away by the tides of eighteen hundred years.

To add to the interest of this historic spot, there still remains in the fosse of the Roman Camp a fragment of a chapel built in the

thirteenth century, with its little graveyard, which, like the camp itself, is gradually crumbling into the Severn Sea.



AN ARCHWAY OF SUDBROOK CHAPEL.

Sudbrook Camp not only guarded the landing-place for the Romans, but protected their important city, Venta Silurum (Caerwent), which they built shortly afterwards.



There are few things more interesting in our country than the remains of this ancient town. A great portion of its Roman walls are wonderfully perfect, its gateways may be seen, and thanks to the work and enthusiasm of the antiquaries who for some years past have been directing the exploration of the place, the character and position of many of its buildings are known to us.

Caerwent is but a village to-day, but it stands over the centre of what was once a populous Roman city. There has recently been discovered beneath the village green a great stone bearing an inscription which makes it clear that here was stationed, for a time at least, the Second Legion, which so doggedly fought to conquer the Silures.

Our neighbouring cities Bath (*Aquæ Solis*), Cirencester (*Corinium*), and Gloucester (*Glevum*) were flourishing places at the same period, but there is no evidence whatever, to show that any Roman town stood on the site of Bristol. There must have been a settlement at Clifton, for when a hundred and forty years ago General Sir William Draper built the recently demolished Manilla Hall, the foundations of a Roman villa were discovered. The house was quite close to the military station on Observatory Hill. In 1899, too, the site of a Roman villa was discovered at Brislington.

A great Roman road ran from London to Bath, uniting in Wiltshire with a more important one, called the Icknield Street, which led from Bury St. Edmund's in Suffolk.

We have an interesting record of a roadway which the Romans made from Bath to Caerwent. Tradition states that it extended right through South Wales to the Irish crossing-place, near St. David's (Menapia).

The Romans built stations at certain intervals, and we know that the names of those between Bath and Caerwent were Trajectus and Abona. Many attempts have been made to locate these stations, but it cannot be done with certainty; nor can the course taken by the ancient road be safely determined. People often speak of this highway as the Via Julia, but we are not at all sure that the Romans used the name.

There is good evidence that an important road did lead from Bath to Caerwent, for it is clearly indicated in a celebrated book of Roman military routes called the *Itineraries of Antoninus*.

The road numbered 14 in this collection probably crossed the neck of land between Lansdown and Kelston Beacon, and, after passing a great British Camp at North Stoke, descended to Bitton. An ancient and dis-used roadway in this out-of-the-way district

is still known as the Via Julia. At Bitton, quite close to the stone marking six miles from Bath or Bristol, there may still be seen a small specimen of one of the rectangular camps of the Romans. This was possibly the station called Trajectus. It is thought that the road followed the course of the old Bath and Bristol highway through Hanham, then passed to the north of the city, over Ashley Hill to Redland, crossed Durdham Down and then proceeded to Sea Mills.

A stony track which may be seen near the reservoir on Durdham Down is believed to be a relic of this ancient highway.

Sea Mills quite certainly marks the position of a large Roman settlement. Within recent years, its limits have been traced by careful observers, coins and other relics have been found there, and a stone bearing a Roman inscription, discovered close at hand thirty years ago, may be seen in the Bristol Museum.

It is very probable that this place at the mouth of the Trym was Abona, and that from this spot the Roman galleys bore the soldiers who journeyed to do battle with the valiant Silures.

The Mendip country, famous for its ancient lead workings, was occupied at an early period of the Roman conquest; but it is likely that the western and seaboard portions of Somerset



held out for a long period, in such strong positions as those marked by the great camps at Cadbury near Clevedon, and Worlebury on the hill overlooking Weston-super-Mare.



GATEWAY AT CAERWENT.

## CHAPTER III.

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### Saxon Times.

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**I**N the year 577, the most powerful of the many Kings who ruled in England was Ceawlin of Wessex. The Venerable Bede, an English historian who lived more than a hundred years later, mentions Ceawlin as the second person to hold the title Bretwalda, or "wide ruler" of Britain. Until this time, the Britons, then a Christian people, held their own in the Western counties, and the cities of Gloucester, Bath, and Cirencester were theirs. They had met the Saxons in many fierce fights, such as the famous battle of Mount Badon, in which the heroic King Arthur defeated the heathen invaders, half a century before.

The ancient road which leads from Bristol through Fishponds, Staple Hill, and Pucklechurch into Wiltshire, crosses the Cotswolds at the point known as Hinton Hill, which overlooks the little hamlet now called Dyrham. On the right of the road at the top

of the hill, there may be seen at the present time the high walls and deep ditches of Hinton Camp. In many places the works are so perfect, that it is difficult to believe they belong to so remote an age.

On this spot was fought, in 577, the greatest battle of which the history of our district can tell. "In this year," says the English Chronicle, "Cuthwine and Ceawlin fought against the Britons, and they slew three kings, Commail and Condidan and Farinmail, at the place which is called Deorham, and took three cities from them, Gloucester and Cirencester and Bath."

The victory was an important one, not only because it gave the Saxons possession of the Cotswold district, but because it cut off the Britons of Wales from their kinsmen who dwelt south of the Bristol Channel.

If any town had stood at the important point now occupied by our own city, it is unreasonable to suppose that the victorious Saxon would have left it unattacked. We may, therefore, conclude that Bristol had not yet come into being.

Of the Battle of Dyrham, we have no particulars beyond those just quoted. No doubt the camp existed before Ceawlin's time, and it is believed that the Wessex conqueror, marching from Wiltshire, occupied the vantage-point, and that he was there besieged by the ill-fated British chieftains.



Near the village of Wick, and quite close to the direct route from Dyrham to Bath, there existed, until a few years ago, the remains of a Roman villa. These, on careful examination, gave clear evidence of destruction by fire, and it is quite probable that the fate of the house and its denizens belongs to the story of the triumphant march of Ceawlin's fierce warriors.

In a field at Beach, not far from Wick, are the Chessels, two tall, rough-hewn stones, which stand to puzzle the curious visitor. There were formerly three, and a local story—told by the historian Rudder,—states that these marked the burial-place of the three vanquished British leaders.

During the next three hundred years, the south-western counties gradually fell under the control of the English. Gloucestershire became peopled by a tribe named the Huiccas, and formed a part of the kingdom of Mercia. To this period we may assign the foundation of our town.

One of its earliest names was Bricgstowe, "the place of the bridge." Most probably the bridge was built before a town stood here. It is easy to see how necessary it was to provide means of crossing the Avon on the route from the Midlands to the South-west, at some point as little as possible removed from the mouth of the river.





QUEEN ELIZABETH AT ST. JOHN'S GATE.



By the time of Ethelred II., whose reign began in 979, Bricgstowe was a flourishing town. We know this, because it possessed a mint at which the king's money was coined.

Amongst the coins preserved at Stockholm, as relics of the times when the mariners of the North extorted Danegeld from our Anglo-Saxon forefathers, is a silver penny, bearing the image of Ethelred the Unready, and minted by one Ælfwerd, of Bricgstowe. This coin forms the earliest authentic record of our city's existence.

It is well to notice that the possession of a mint shews Bristol to have been a place of commercial importance even in those remote times, and such a place it has remained ever since.

At length we reach the first event definitely recorded in the history of Bristol. In the middle of the eleventh century, Edward the Confessor was King. The greatest Englishmen of the time were Godwin, Earl of Wessex, and his sons. King Edward was the son of a Norman princess, had spent most of his life in Normandy, and was altogether more of a Frenchman than an Englishman. Godwin viewed with alarm the growing influence of the King's Norman favourites, and when, in 1051, his townsmen of Dover attacked the retainers of Eustace of Boulogne, Edward's brother-in-law, Earl Godwin refused to punish them.

A fierce quarrel arose concerning this. The great Earls of Mercia and Northumbria took sides with the King and the Norman faction. Godwin and his sons gathered an army at Beverstone, on the Cotswold Hills, but he was induced to submit his case to the Witan, the Great Council of the nation. The result was that Godwin and his family were banished. The English Chronicle tells us that Harold and Lewin, or Leofwine, sons of Godwin, fled to Bristol, and escaped to Ireland on board a ship belonging to Sweyn, their eldest brother. A few months later, however, Godwin and Harold were able to return to England with powerful forces, and they acted so vigorously that the Normans were expelled from the land.

Godwin then occupied his old place of power, and when he died, in 1053, Harold succeeded him as Earl of Wessex. The King was childless, and Earl Harold was on all sides looked upon as the most likely man to succeed him ; not only because he was brother to the good Queen Edith, but because he was the bravest and wisest of the English nobles.

When, in 1063, Harold led an English army to subdue and dethrone the troublesome King Griffith of Wales, it was from the port of Bristol that his fleet sailed.

Three years later, the valiant King Harold met a warrior's death on the fatal hill of Senlac, and the Saxon power passed away for

ever. The townsmen of Bristol very quietly submitted to the rule of the Norman Conqueror, unlike the stubborn men of Exeter, who during eighteen days' siege resisted King William with desperate courage, in 1068.

In those times, the Avon and its winding tributary the Frome, enclosed at their confluence a peninsula of about fifty acres, an island but for the very narrow neck of land between the rivers on the eastern side. Nineteen acres of the higher part of this land were occupied by a group of one-storied houses, built of mud and timber. This settlement was divided into four parts by the crossing ways we now call High Street, Broad Street, Corn Street, and Wine Street. Possibly a church stood in each of the quarters, and there is little doubt that a defensive wall enclosed the town.

The town was under the control of a reeve or steward, and formed part of the King's manor of Barton, an estate which stretched away eastward, including the districts still bearing the suggestive names Kingsland and Barton Hill. St. Peter's Church, possibly the Parish Church of Barton, stood outside the eastern boundary of the town.

Across the Frome to the westward, lay the manor of Billeswick, stretching over College Green to the foot of Brandon Hill, with a royal estate at Clifton beyond that.

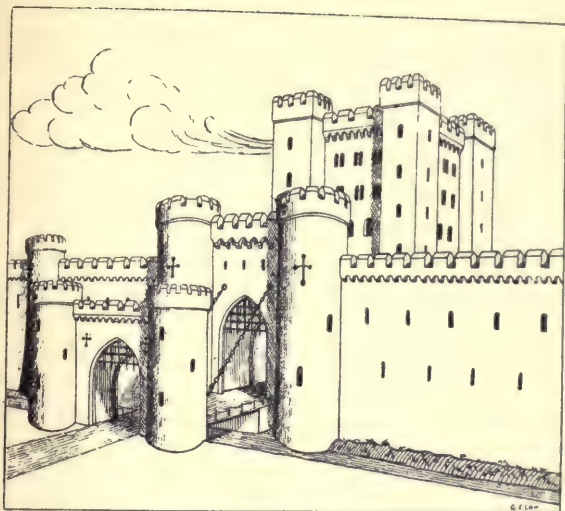


South of the Avon was Bedminster, another royal manor, possessing its parish church. It is possible that the beginnings of a township even then occupied the hilly part of the parish at Redcliff.

Tradition speaks of a famous Saxon Reeve of Bristol named Aylward, whose name was borne onetime by the ancient thoroughfare now called the Pithay; and it has been suggested that Lewin's Mead occupied part of an estate belonging to Lewin, or Leofwine, son of Godwin and brother of Harold.

The commercial importance of Bristol had its origin in its Irish trade. In the eleventh century, many of the coast-towns of Ireland, including Dublin, were in the hands of Danish settlers or Ostmen. With these, the Bristol shipowners of Saxon times carried on an odious traffic in slaves. Not only were criminals sold into bondage, but in open defiance of the law, English men, women and children were stolen by the slave-dealers, and the western seaport was especially notorious for the prevalence of this barbarous practice.

In the Conqueror's reign, the slave-trade of Bristol was temporarily checked, mainly by the good work of Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester. He not only preached earnestly against the evil in this part of his diocese, but wrung from William a reluctant consent to prohibit the wicked but profitable commerce.



KEEP AND BARBICAN, BRISTOL CASTLE.

## CHAPTER IV.

### Bristol Castle.

WE may well believe that the narrow ridge between the two rivers, which joined Saxon Bristol to the rest of Gloucestershire, was protected in some way in very early times. It is not likely, however, that any structure deserving the name of castle was built before the Norman Conquest.

One of the heroes of whom the boy-poet Chatterton sang was

“Ælla, the warden of this castle-stead  
Whilst Saxons did the English sceptre sway,  
Who made whole troops of Dacyan men to bleed,  
Then closed his eyes, and closed his eyes for aye.”

But Ælla, his castle and his Danish foes, were mere creatures of the youthful bard's imagination.

Early in the Conqueror's reign, a fortress was built at this important point by Geoffrey Mowbray, the Bishop of Coutances and of Exeter, one of the most famous of the Norman king's followers. Bishop Geoffrey also constructed, on the northern side of the town, the Second Wall, which, extending between the points now known as Castle Mill Street and Stone Bridge, enclosed the very considerable tract of land lying between the older rampart and the left bank of the From.

Domesday Book, which was compiled in 1086, states that the whole of Barton Manor paid the king an annual rent of a hundred and ten silver marks. A silver mark, at a time when fourpence would buy a sheep, was worth thirteen shillings and fourpence, so that the rent paid by the Manor was £73 6s. 8d. It may be assumed that nearly the whole of this came from the urban part



of the estate. We therefore get some idea of the important place occupied by Bristol, for only London, York, Lincoln and Norwich paid more rent than the share borne by our town.

In addition to the king's ferm just mentioned, the burgesses paid thirty-three silver marks and one gold mark (six pounds) to Bishop Geoffrey. The office held in regard to the town by the warlike prelate is not exactly known. Possibly the silver and gold were paid to him as Constable of the castle, and in consideration of the extensive building work carried on by him.

Geoffrey played an important part in the history of the next reign. He joined Odo of Bayeux, the Conqueror's half-brother, in his revolt against William Rufus, and for a time the Castle of Bristol was the headquarters of the Bishop's rebellion.

Geoffrey was at length driven out, and his castle passed into the hands of Robert Fitz-Hamon, the Norman conqueror of South Wales and the founder of Cardiff Castle. His only daughter and sole heiress Mabel, married Robert Fitzroy Earl of Gloucester, Henry the First's gallant son, the champion of his half-sister the Empress Maud, and of her son Henry, the first of the Royal Plantagenets. Under the valiant Red Earl, Bristol, besides increasing her commercial

greatness, became a military post of first-class importance, and a place of great ecclesiastical power.

Robert of Gloucester added to Geoffrey's citadel a mighty square keep, which was rivalled in point of size and strength only by the towers of London, Norwich, and Colchester.

The top of Castle Street runs right through the site of Bristol Keep. Of its character and dimensions we have fairly trustworthy records. It was oblong in form, its outer length, from west to east (i.e., down Castle Street), being 110 feet, while its outer breadth was 95 feet.

The solid masonry of each wall was twenty-five feet thick at the base, and nine-and-a-half feet thick at the summit. The keep was supported at each angle by a square tower, that at the south-west corner exceeding the others in height by thirty feet.

"Four-square to the winds of heaven" stood this "nobel toure," defying the assaults of man and the ravages of time for more than five hundred years. To-day not a vestige of it remains.

The castle walls enclosed a space of six acres—about one-third of the area of the adjoining town. Parts of these ancient defences may still be seen. On the Broad Weir, a patched piece of the lower wall

abuts the Pupil Teachers' Centre, while below, the wide pavement covers the ancient moat. If you stand on the little bridge in Queen Street, the narrow thoroughfare leading from Castle Street to Passage Street and St. Philip's Bridge, you may still look down into the dark waters of the moat, which winds its way from the Broad Weir around the Castle Hill by Castle Ditch, under Castle Street towards the Avon. From the moat at Queen Street Bridge still rises the massive South Wall, and near this spot the Water Gate of the castle is said to have stood.

On the north, the east, and the south-east the moat shows the positions of the wall. It followed the river bank from the moat junction, opposite Countess Slip, to the point where it turned sharply to the north, Then it passed through the spot where Peter Street joins Castle Street, and met the North Wall at the corner where St. Peter's School now stands.

We gain most of our knowledge of the ancient building from William Wyrcestre (or Botoner), a St. James's man, who lived in the fifteenth century, and wrote very detailed notes of the geography of his city. He tells us the castle comprised two wards. The Outer Ward, the western and smaller one, contained the great keep, with the Constable's house standing on the south side of it. A

larger portion of the Inner Ward was occupied by the Castle Green. Near to the eastern wall stood a magnificent banqueting hall. The entrance to this hall remains, and is hidden by the walls of a house in Tower Street,



BRISTOL CASTLE. ENTRANCE TO STATE APARTMENTS.



"There is also," wrote William Wyrcestre, "a magnificent chapel for the King and the lords and ladies." In a stable in Tower Street, adjoining the house containing the banqueting-hall porch, are further remains, which are considered to be relics of this royal chapel.

Besides the fragments just mentioned, there are two apartments piercing the North Wall, near the Pupil Teachers' Centre, some underground vaults in Castle Street and its neighbourhood, and a crumbling tower behind a dingy court in the same street, to remind us of the stately fortress which overawed the town for so many centuries.

In Bristol Castle, Earl Robert held up the banner of his half-sister Maud, in defiance of his usurping cousin, King Stephen. Stephen vainly besieged him here in 1139, and hither in 1141 the King was brought a captive after his defeat at Lincoln. From February until September, Stephen remained in durance, at one time receiving the treatment due to his rank, but later languishing in chains in some grim dungeon beneath the mighty keep. The fall of Stephen gave Maud the throne of England for a brief period. Then came a change of fortune. Robert of Gloucester fell into the hands of his enemies, and to purchase the earl's liberty, King Stephen was set free.

In 1142, Henry of Anjou, the future King

of England, came to Bristol, to live at Bristol Castle under the protection of his uncle the Earl Robert, and to receive his education under the care of one Matthew, the first-mentioned of Bristol teachers.

The Norman Period was an era of church-building in Bristol. The old church of St. Peter was rebuilt by Robert Fitz-Hamon, and the lower masonry of its tower belongs to his time. The Great Consul, Robert of Gloucester, built on the site of the Council House the Parish Church of St. Ewen, long since demolished, and the great Benedictine Priory of St. James's. An ancient legend relates that out of every ten of the stones brought from Caen in Normandy when the castle was being built, one was set apart, by the earl's orders, for the building of the Lady Chapel at the Priory. The present parish church of St. James stands on the site of the western portion of the church of Robert's priory. Some very interesting Norman work still remains, notably the arcade of intersecting arches on the western front, with a beautiful rose window above it, and the great pillars which divide the nave from the aisles.

In the Bristol Art Gallery may be seen a painting, copied from an original drawing in the British Museum, showing the extensive and picturesque ruins of the Priory as they existed in 1630. Apart from the church scarcely a fragment now remains. The name

of a city street, St. James's Barton, indicates the position occupied by the Priory farm.

In 1147 the Great Consul died, and was buried in the choir of his own church.

Robert Fitzharding, Reeve of Bristol, and founder of the noble family of Berkeley, was a friend and contemporary of Robert of Gloucester.

Fitzharding purchased the Bill-  
eswick Manor, and on it built  
in 1142 an Abbey of the  
Black Canons of  
St. Augustine.  
The church of  
this house be-  
came in later  
days the Cath-  
edral of the City  
of Bristol. The  
beautiful Nor-  
man gateway at  
College Green,



possibly only a copy of the original work, is one of the city's most valued possessions.

Trinity Church or Christ Church, and All Saints' Church, were also rebuilt during Norman times, and William of Gloucester, Robert's son and successor, founded the Church of St. Mary-le-Port.



Old Bristol  
Bridge.  
in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.



## CHAPTER V.

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### The Rise of the Port.

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**U**NDER her first Plantagenet king, Henry II., England attained great place among the nations. The king's armies overran Ireland and South Wales. Scotland and North Wales submitted to his overlordship. His marriage with Eleanor of Guienne brought him lands, which with those inherited from his father and his mother made him ruler over the western half of France, so that his dominions extended "from the Orkneys to the Pyrenees."

This growth of England's power was attended by a great increase in her trade, and Bristol shared fully in the general gain. For the commerce of those days, the town was exceptionally well situated. It stood in a sheltered reach of a navigable river, secure from the attacks of the piratical enemies who were then the continual dread of many of the seaports. It served, as chief trading centre, one of the most productive districts in England.

At this time, and for many centuries, St. James's Fair was held at the place now called the Haymarket, and was known to the merchants of all lands. There gathered the cloth-dealers with frieze made in the locality, the corn merchants with the produce of the bountiful west-country, and the leather-sellers with their goods from the tanneries which even then stood near the river. The town was also the great market for the fish caught off the western coast.

Then, as now, Bristol was widely famed for the manufacture of soap. "At Bristol, everybody is, or has been, a soap-maker," wrote a French Jew in a warning letter to a compatriot, a few years later. Soap-makers were regarded with peculiar aversion in those times, not so much on account of any general dislike of cleanliness, but because of the unpleasant nature of their occupation.

Ships from Ireland, France, Norway, and even from distant Iceland, lay alongside the wharves, just under the frowning battlements of the town.

The luxurious Normans, drank choice wines instead of the ale and mead which had satisfied the simpler Saxons, and Bristol quickly became noted as a *dépôt* for the vintages of Southern France.

English wines were made from the fruit of the vineyards of the Severn country, and

especially those in the Vale of Gloucester. "This county," wrote William of Malmesbury, a famous Norman chronicler, "is thicker in the number of its vineyards, richer in their produce, and pleasanter in taste than the other provinces of England."

"In the same valley," continued the same author, speaking of the Severn district, "is a very celebrated town by name Bristow, in which is a port, the resort of ships coming from Ireland, Norway and other countries beyond sea."

The early mariners of Bristol were not wanting in enterprise, for it is recorded that in 1147 they engaged in a privateering "Crusade" against the Moors of Lisbon.

Henry II. was in many ways associated with the town, and appears to have shown it special favour. We have already seen that he spent several years of his boyhood here. To him, Bristol is indebted for the first of its charters of which we have any record. The document, which was signed by the great Thomas A'Becket, among several others, granted to Bristol merchants the privilege of sending their goods free of toll throughout the land.

It was at Bristol, that Dermot the dethroned King of Leinster found refuge in 1167, and it was by adopting Dermot's cause that Strongbow gained for his sovereign a

foothold in the Emerald Isle.

Bristol men gave the king great help in his expedition to Ireland, and as a reward for this, Henry bestowed upon them "My City of Dublin for them to inhabit," further granting them "the liberties and customs which men of Bristow have at Bristow." This may be taken to mean that Bristolians were allowed and encouraged to trade freely with Dublin, to settle therein, and to enjoy the fullest privileges of citizenship.

Henry's son, John, gained authority in Bristol by his marriage with Hawisia, granddaughter of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and the heiress of a great portion of the Red Earl's estates.

It was probably in 1188 that Prince John, who was then known as the Earl of Mortain, granted to the men of Bristol a charter, which is interesting, because it shows us what was the extent of the town in those days.

The Bristol of Earl John's Charter extended North to South from Bewell (Cotham Hill) to Brightnee or Brightbow (Bedminster Causeway), and West to East from Sandbrook (Hotwells Road) to Aldeberry (Totterdown). In some respects, however, the place was still regarded as three towns, Bristol, Redcliffe, which was mainly the property of the Lords of Berkeley, and Temple Fee, the gift of Robert



of Gloucester to the Knights Templars.

In 1202, John, who was then King, put away his wife Hawisia, and married Isabel of Angoulême. By this he lost the Gloucester estates except the town and castle of Bristol.

King John's second wife had been betrothed to a French noble, the Count of La Marche. Eager to avenge his injury, the count stirred up the rebellion in Normandy, which led to the loss of the whole of John's French possessions. The rebellion aimed at placing upon the throne of England Prince Arthur, who, as the son of John's elder brother Geoffrey, was the rightful heir. After the siege of the Castle of Mirabeau in 1202, Arthur and his sister Eleanor were made captives. Nothing further is known respecting the fate of the young prince, but it is only too likely that he was murdered at the command of his unscrupulous uncle.

The Princess Eleanor of Brittany, who should have been Queen of England, was imprisoned at Corfe Castle in Dorset, but was at a later date removed to Bristol Castle, where, although she was otherwise treated with the consideration due to a Princess, she remained in captivity until her death in 1241.

When John was succeeded in 1216 by his youthful son Henry III., the opposition of the people of London made it unsafe for the boy-king to reside at his capital.

Henry therefore kept court at Bristol, and there the Great Council of the nation met in November, 1216. Henry frequently resided at the Western Capital. In his reign was built the castle entrance-hall, still to be seen in Tower Street, which was added to the Norman state apartments, built in Earl Robert's time.

Bristol had reached an eminent place among the towns of England, and the enterprise of its people did not fail to keep pace with its progress. During Henry's reign great improvements were accomplished. The first of these was the making of the present channel of the River From. Before this time, the From flowed along part of the course of the present Baldwin Street, and joined the Avon just below Bristol Bridge, near St. Leonard's Churchyard. Land was purchased from the monks of St. Augustine's, and at great expense, the direct passage from Stone Bridge to Prince's Wharf was cut.

The whole work, then perhaps the greatest engineering feat ever attempted in England, was in progress from 1239 till 1247.

The second undertaking was the replacing of the wooden bridge of Bristol by one built of stone. The work was commenced in 1248.

From time to time the existence of an earlier bridge has been disputed. There are, however, in existence authentic copies of two

charters, one granted in 1160, the other in 1164, each of which mentions "My estate in the marsh near the bridge at Bristol."

Before the bridge could be built, the waters of the broad tidal river had to be diverted. Two strong dams were built, and a channel was cut from Temple Meads to Redcliffe Back, close to the present course of Portwall Lane.

The building probably occupied the greater part of the years 1248-9. The bridge was a remarkable structure with its three mighty piers dividing its four wide archways. It supported two rows of many-storied shops, which overhung the river, and a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary was built across the middle.

The masons of those days did sterling work, for the bridge and most of its buildings stood for over four hundred years. When in 1761-8 there was another re-construction, the lower parts of the old piers were still strong enough to be retained, in spite of their exposure to the ebb and flow of so many strong tides.

The making of this bridge was shortly followed by an extension of the fortified area of the town. The combined districts of Redcliffe and Temple lay in the great bend of the Avon, which bounded them on the North, West, and East. Along the South ran the channel which had been dug out to take

the stream during the building of the bridge. On the bank of this channel a wall was built, starting from Harratz Tower on the eastern arm of the Avon, passing Temple Gate and Redcliffe Gate, and reaching the river again at Redcliffe Back.

Another portion joined the Avon and the new From Channel, passing behind the northern side of King Street. Bending near the From, it was continued along the bank of that river, until it met the Norman wall at St. Giles's Gate, near Stone Bridge.

Young Bristolians who really wish to search out the oldest bits of the city, will not find it difficult to trace the whole course of the Third Wall, although they will scarcely find any actual remains of it. At the end of Jones's Lane, a narrow thoroughfare joining Redcliffe Street to Redcliffe Back, stands a loop-holed fragment which has been claimed as part of the thirteenth century bulwark, but it appears to be somewhat off the route. Parts of the Second Wall of Norman times remain in Fairfax Street, while the little archway called John's Arch, formerly known as Blind Gate, between Broad Street and Nelson Street, represents a portion of the First Wall, although the gateway itself was re-built in the thirteenth century.

Of the Fourth Wall, the rampart built right round the city during the great Civil



War, an interesting relic may be seen on Brandon Hill.

Bristol, Redcliffe and Temple became practically one town, and as such it was second in size and importance to London only. It was not until nearly a hundred years later that the three places were completely united. In 1373, Edward III. granted a charter by which Bristol became a county, quite independent of the neighbouring shires of Gloucester and Somerset. Bristol County included the area enclosed by the walls, with the populated districts which had grown up outside them, and in addition, the banks and waters of the Avon from the town to the river's mouth, as well as the waters of the Severn as far as the shores of the Flat Holm and Steep Holm.

The town had striven right loyally to aid the warlike king in his designs upon France.

In 1340, Bristol ships and men took their part in the glorious fight off Sluys, the first of England's great naval victories. Six years later, Bristol contributed twenty-four vessels and over six hundred seamen to the fleet which bore to France the victors of Cressy and Calais. This contingent was exceeded only by those despatched by Yarmouth and London.

Since the days of the Plantagenet Kings,

the port of Bristol has experienced many changes of fortune. Time and again it has fallen upon evil days, but it has rarely lacked courageous citizens who have borne in mind the fine enterprise of her men of commerce in those ancient times, and have sought to follow their example.

A century ago, a greater work was achieved in the making of the New Cut, and the formation of the Floating Harbour.

Until the making of the Floating Harbour, the sailing-craft of all nations which found their way into Bristol City lay high and dry on the mud at low tide, below Bristol Bridge; for then, as we still see below Cumberland Basin, the River Avon, at the town wharves, dwindled down to a mere brook, twice every day

At the present time we are looking forward with eager expectation to the successful accomplishment of another vast scheme, the building of the Royal Edward Dock at Avonmouth, now a part of Bristol.

In the times when the From Channel and the Floating Harbour were new, the world's largest ships could load and unload at Bristol wharves. When this can again be done, it is hoped that our city will once more hold place among the world's greatest seaports.

## CHAPTER VI.

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# The Settlement of the Town Government.

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**W**E have seen that in Saxon and in Norman times, the chief official of the town was the king's reeve or steward.

The main work of this officer was to control the collection of the king's dues called the *ferm* or *farm*, which consisted of the fines imposed for law-breaking, the tolls from the markets and fairs and the town-rents belonging to the king. Besides this, the reeve presided over the *mote* or court of the borough.

No doubt part of the work of the governor or constable of the castle, was to keep a watchful eye upon the doings of the town. In later days the mayor was obliged to take his oath of office in the presence of the constable.

Under the Angevin kings, a great change gradually took place in the government of

our towns. These were allowed to adopt the French system, by which the affairs of each place were controlled by a mayor chosen by the chief townspeople, instead of by a reeve appointed by the king.

An old document (which, however, is but a copy and not the original of a Bristol deed), mentions the name of a Bristol mayor of the year 1200. Nothing is known of him or of his successors until the year 1216, when Roger Cordewainer held office. From that time the complete list is recorded.

Probably the mayor was at first elected by the wealthy burgesses forming the Guild of Merchants. The formation of such bodies, as of the less important associations known as Trade Guilds, was wisely encouraged by the order-loving Henry II, who is unsurpassed among the early monarchs in his care for the real settlement of good government. The marked increase in the power of the trading population must be largely associated with the growth of the system of guilds.

The mayor at first was assisted only by the bailiffs or seneschals, but there gradually arose the system by which the work of governing the town was shared by the mayor, his officers and the Common Council, consisting of responsible advisers chosen, more or less, by the burgesses.

At Bristol this settlement was not accom-



plished easily. In the year 1312, when the weak and unfortunate Edward II was king, the common folk were greatly out of sympathy with the mayor, William Randolph and his friends; under the leadership of John Taverner, who had himself thrice held the mayoralty, they complained loudly of the undue power possessed by Randolph and his party.

Other matters excited the popular discontent. From time to time the ferm or town-revenues had been let by the royal owner. In 1225 it was rented by the town itself. Later it was frequently given for a while as the king's coronation present to the queen, and Bristol was for this reason long known as the "Queen's Chamber."

In 1312, Lord Badlesmere, the Constable of Bristol Castle and one of the king's many favourites, was privileged to receive the Bristol ferm.

The strong party of malcontent citizens of whom Taverner was the leader, were just in the mood to object to such an arrangement, and when Lord Badlesmere revived an old custom by which a toll had to be paid on every cargo of fish brought to Bristol, the townsmen refused to pay this or any other moneys demanded by him. The mayor and his fourteen friends took the side of the constable, and appeal was made to the king.

Judges were sent to Bristol to deal with the case, and the chief of them was Lord Thomas of Berkeley. He was unpopular in the town, because of the unwillingness of the men of Bedminster to submit to the overlordship his family had so long exercised and still claimed.

While the court was sitting, the insurgent citizens stormed the Guildhall, and the judges with the mayor and the members of his party had difficulty in escaping with their lives.

Then began the serious strife known as the Great Insurrection of Bristol. To defend themselves against the Castle garrison, the rebels built a wall between the town and the fortress, along the line of Dolphin Street, formerly called Defence Lane. This wall was a little to the west of the Norman bulwark, against which Bishop Geoffrey's castle had been built.

For three years the Bristol men defied all the forces sent against them. In 1314, an army of the king's men 20,000 strong, commanded by the Earl of Gloucester, laid siege to the town. He was, however, compelled to march, with his men of Gloucester, Somerset and Wilts, into Scotland, where they formed part of the vast army which was routed by King Robert Bruce at Bannockburn. Gloucester, who commanded the English van at that great battle, was the chief amongst the English slain, and Thomas of Berkeley was

one of the many noble prisoners taken.

In 1316, the king's cousin Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, who had also shared the command at Bannockburn, and to whom the king owed his life on that day of disaster, appeared before the gates of Bristol. Taverner's men, however, refused to submit on the terms offered them.

Later in the year Bristol was so hotly assailed on land and water by the army sent against it, that, the new wall having been demolished by the engines of war, the town was forced to submit. Taverner and his son were banished, a fine was imposed upon the town, and Randolph again became mayor; but Bristol was left with its liberties intact, so that in the main, the rebels suffered no great measure of defeat.

A few years later, when troubles fell upon the king, and he sought to secure Bristol by giving his favourite Hugh Despenser the Elder command of the castle, the townsmen sided with the queen and forced Despenser to surrender.

The aged nobleman (he was ninety years old) was put to death outside the walls of the town. The historian Stowe describes very minutely the barbarous manner in which the executioners did their work, after the fashion of those cruel times.

Among the many places where the ill-fated

Edward II was imprisoned by order of the unnatural Queen Isabella, Bristol Castle was the last but one. His Bristol friends, who quite probably included some of the unpopular merchants of the Great Insurrection, schemed for their king's release. He was therefore removed to Berkeley, and it was while he was being conducted to the place of his doom, that he suffered the indignities so frequently related in the old stories.

The well-preserved feudal fortress, Berkeley Castle, still stands, some twenty miles away, near the road to Gloucester. Many readers must know Gray's fine Ode, in which the Bard speaks, in prophecy, of the grim tragedy of that black night :

“When Severn shall re-echo with affright  
The shrieks of Death through Berkeley's roof  
that ring,  
Shrieks of an agonising king !”

In September, 1314, Edward of Carnarvon was most foully done to death at Berkeley Castle. His youthful son had been proclaimed King Edward III. some time before, at Bristol.

The years 1348 and 1349 formed the English period of the Black Death, the most fearful plague which has ever ravaged the world. The seaport towns were the first to suffer, and our town was most terribly afflicted. “In Bristol,” writes one historian,



“the living were hardly able to bury the dead.” Grass grew inches high in High Street and Broad Street, and in the old city “scarce the tenth person was left alive.”

This terrible thinning of the town population had a remarkable effect upon the conditions under which the craftsmen worked. Before this time, all engaged in the trades, both masters and men, had been actual workers at their crafts, all possessing equal rights of membership in the craft-guilds. When work was resumed after the plague had spent itself, men flocked into the towns from the country to work at trades instead of upon the land, and being unskilled men, were content to take lower rank than the old craftsmen. There began to be a great difference between the position of the master, who belonged to his guild, and his workmen who were rarely admitted to membership.

We saw in a preceding chapter, how on account of the services rendered to Edward III by loyal Bristolians, the county of Bristol was created by the Great Charter of 1373. In 1344 a recognised Common Council had come into existence, consisting at first of forty-eight leading burgesses, and taking the place of the old Merchant Guild.

By the charter of 1373 the mayor and his chief officers the sheriff and bailiffs were empowered to select a body of forty coun-

cillors "by the assent of the commonalty" of the town.

The men of Bristol thus gained a measure of power in the election of their civil rulers. As time went on, the custom fell into disuse, and for centuries the mayoral office and the memberships of the corporation were held without let or hindrance by the wealthy merchants who desired such positions, and who themselves decided who should fill the vacancies, as they occurred. It is not necessary to refer fully to the various ways in which the details of the town government were altered from time to time before the passing of the important Municipal Reform Act in 1835.

At that time the city was divided into ten wards, and this number has since been increased to nineteen, to include the added districts. Each of these wards sends its members to the City Council. The body now consists of the sixty-six elected councillors and twenty-two chosen aldermen, presided over by the Lord Mayor, who, with the Sheriff, is recommended by a specially elected committee, which meets in October. The Town Council election takes place on the first of November of each year. Each Councillor is elected for a term of three years; while an alderman holds office for six years, and the Lord Mayor fills his important

post for one year.

In this brief account of the city and its government there must be included some mention of its Courts of Justice.

Bristol has its Assizes at which His Majesty's Justices attend twice a year to try civil cases, and three times a year to try criminal cases, its Quarter Sessions where the City Recorder presides, its County Court where the business cases of Bristol are tried by a special County Court Judge, who also visits in circuit, Axbridge, Wells and Weston-super-Mare, its Police Courts where breaches of the peace are tried by the City Magistrates, and its Coroner's Court.

Besides these, the city claims two courts of a somewhat unusual character. The first of these is the historic Tolzey Court, the quarterly sessions of which are still held, under the presidency of the Recorder, and where certain monetary cases may be settled. The history of this ancient institution is a most complicated one, but it is perhaps safe to say that it grew out of the early Borough Mote over which the reeve presided in Norman times, and perhaps even in Saxon days, if the town had then become sufficiently distinct from the Manor of Barton to which it formerly belonged. There is little doubt that the Tolzey gained its name because at one time it dealt mainly with

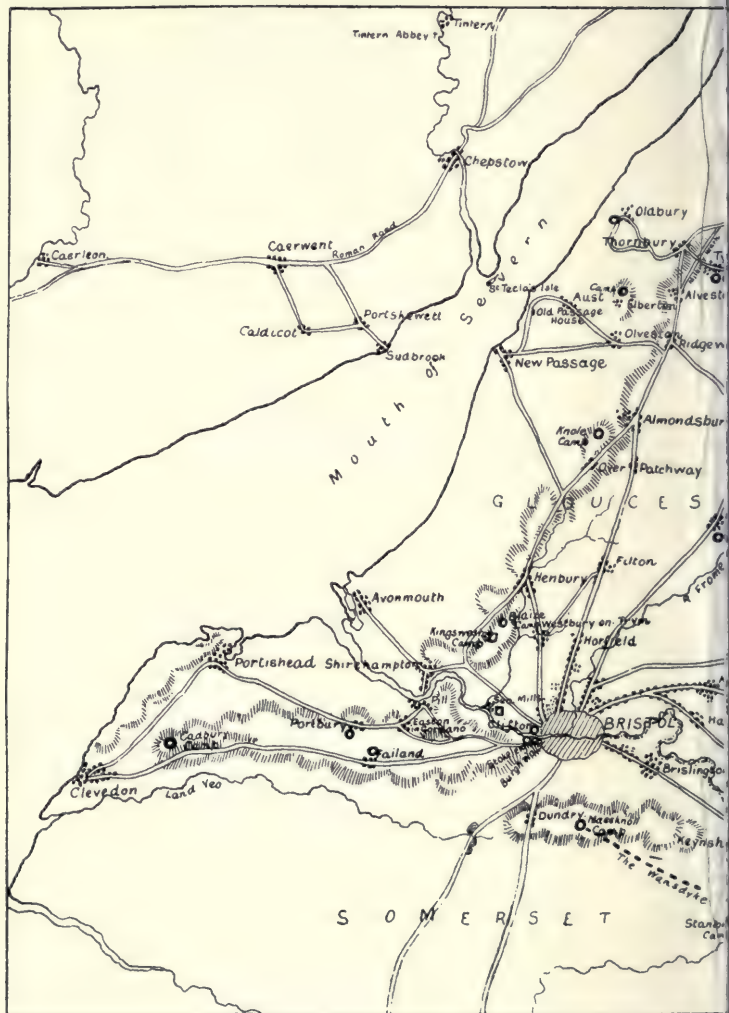
the tolls of the borough. The handsome brass pillars which still stand outside the Exchange, were placed there, three centuries ago, to meet the convenience of the merchants who gathered to transact business at the Tolzey, which stood near the spot.

In name, we still retain, too, the ancient Pie Poudre Court. Here, in former times, were settled the urgent cases arising out of the town fairs and markets. The name is perhaps derived from the French words *pied poudreu*, for while these literally mean 'dusty foot,' they also mean a vagabond; and either meaning suggests very easily the kind of people whose disputes would need to be settled at such times, and in such a place, as the Old Market formerly was.

The pavement behind the pillars under the "Stag and Hounds" in Old Market Street, is still called the Pie Poudre, and there at ten o'clock in the morning on the last day of September, the Tolzey Court Serjeant still proclaims the holding of the Court of Pie Poudre, and announces that its business will be transacted at the court of which he is an official.







British Camps ○

Scale

HISTORICAL MAP OF







## CHAPTER VII.

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### The End of Feudal Times.

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WHEN, in 1461, the youthful Yorkist King Edward IV. came to the throne he had won by his sword, Bristol was at the height of its fame.

Those were the days of the famous merchant - prince William Canynges, the second of that name.

He twice represented his town in Parliament, was Mayor five times, and owned a great fleet containing some of the largest vessels afloat, notably the "Mary and John," nine hundred tons in burden, according to the measurements of that date, and the "Mary Radclyf" of five hundred tons.

His grandfather, William Canynges the Elder, who was six times Mayor in the reign of Edward III., had largely re-built the old church of St. Mary Redcliffe. The stately edifice was seriously damaged in 1446 when a terrible storm cast down the spire, and

the younger Canynges undertook the work of complete restoration. To him we owe the nave, choir and transepts of the glorious church we possess to-day.

The great merchant was for the six years preceding his death in 1475, the Dean of the College of Westbury-on-Trym.

It was mainly a commercial greatness that Bristol then possessed. The castle had fallen into decay. In 1470, William Wyrcestre, the famous St. James's man from whom we learn so much about the Bristol of those times, was engaged in the patient work of pacing and measuring the streets and buildings, and writing down his descriptions of them. His account tells us that the splendid state apartments were roofless and ruined, and the constable's house laid low. Seventy years later, when Henry VIII. was King, Leland the celebrated traveller and writer saw the castle and wrote of it, "There be many towers yet standing, but all tendeth to ruin."

Edward IV. came to Bristol in the first year of his reign, five years after Canynges the mayor had entertained Queen Margaret, Edward's deadly foe.

The king brought to trial two Lancastrian commanders, Sir John Balwin Fulford and John Heysant, and from the windows of St. Ewen's Church, which once stood on the site



ST. MARY REDCLIFFE CHURCH.





of our Council House, witnessed the execution of his two enemies. Thomas Chatterton's ballad "The Bristowe Tragedy" tells the story :

" At the great minster windows sat  
The king in mickle state,  
To see Charles Bawdin go along  
To his most welcome fate."

The boy poet calls the ill-fated knight "Sir Charles Bawdin," and introduces many other inventions, but the poem is one of his most celebrated.

King Edward received from Canynges a large sum of money. It cannot be said whether this was a personal gift intended to appease the monarch for the hospitality shown by the great merchant to Queen Margaret in 1456, or a sum paid on behalf of the town by Canynges, who was then for the fourth time holding office as Mayor. Quite possibly this large sum of 3,000 marks formed one of the first Benevolences which the king was so fond of extorting.

On Easter Sunday, April 14th, 1471, the day of the decisive Battle of Barnet, Queen Margaret landed at Weymouth to make her last courageous effort for her husband, King Henry VI., and her hapless son Edward Prince of Wales. On her way towards Wales, where she hoped to join the forces

raised by her husband's kinsman, Jasper Tudor Earl of Pembroke, she halted at Bristol on May 1st.

She obtained considerable supplies from the town, and was joined by a few local Lancastrians. Amongst these was the Recorder of Bristol, who lost his life at Tewkesbury. Her little army left Bristol on May 2nd, and marching along the Patchway and the Ridgeway reached Gloucester at ten the next morning, having rested awhile at Berkeley.

Queen Margaret hoped to cross the Severn by the Bridge of Gloucester; but the citizens of that place feared Edward far too greatly to permit this.

King Edward became aware of the queen's attempt to join the Welsh army, and like the alert and tactful general he ever was, hastened to prevent it. Leaving Malmesbury, he marched to intercept the queen's force, resting his troops for one night within the ancient Roman camp at Old Sodbury, whose great walls remain to this day much as the Yorkist monarch left them.

Foiled at Gloucester, Queen Margaret went on rapidly to Tewkesbury. There was fought the disastrous battle where ended the life of Edward Prince of Wales, and the last hopes of his spirited mother.

The king took great offence at the assist-

ance the Bristolians had given the queen, and ordered the fining and imprisonment of those who could be blamed for it.

Like most of the large towns, Bristol had played no great part in the long and terrible Wars of the Roses. In the towns at least, the laws of the sword had largely given way to those of peaceful rule. They were to know little more of the evils of feudal days when "private war, private courage, private persons took the place of the imperial institutions of the government."

The countryside near us, however, formed the scene of a great quarrel known as "the last of the private wars," and in the year 1470, within a score of miles from Bristol, was fought the last serious baronial fray, the fight on Nibley Green, which has been called the English Chevy Chase.

In some of our Public Libraries may be found copies of a book of fine ballads entitled "The Battle of Nibley Green." It was written about sixty years ago by Mr. John Barnett Kington, whose career affords a noteworthy example. He commenced working-life as a poor apprentice to a poor trade, but by dint of hard study he became an accomplished scholar, a barrister-at-law, and the editor of well-known London newspapers.

Let us follow the story he tells in his

charming book. In the times of which we have just been reading, the most powerful Yorkist noble in our district was William, Lord of Berkeley, who retained much of the wealth and influence his ancestors had long held in the Redcliffe Ward of Bristol. His brother, Maurice of Thornbury, had married the daughter of Philip Mede, thrice Mayor of our town. It was a noteworthy match, for of this exemplary pair an ancient and agreeable writer says, "The longer they lived the more they loved." The greatest of the Lancastrian lords in the west was Thomas Talbot, Viscount Lisle, grandson of the famous John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury. Lord Lisle's fairest manor was at Wotton-under-Edge, only six miles from the mighty stronghold of the Berkeleys.

Lord Lisle spent his life in bitter dispute with the Lord of Berkeley, for the lands and titles held by the latter. The feud was not one of a lifetime, but of generations, for from first to last it continued for nearly two centuries.

In 1469, Lord Herbert, the brother-in-law of the viscount had been slain in a fierce affray between his followers and the Berkeley men of Redcliffe on Bristol Bridge, and about the same time Lord William of Berkeley disputed the viscount's right to the Wotton estate, and threatened to attack the manor-house.

Early in 1470, Lord Lisle sent his enemy a message, taunting him that he had delayed to come with all his "carts of guns, and bows and other ordinance . . . to my manor of Wotton, to beat it down upon my head," and ending with a challenge to meet him in knightly combat at some suitable place mid-way between Wotton and Berkeley.

In reply, the Lord of Berkeley twitted the viscount with the newness of his title, denied the existence of any just cause of quarrel, refused the offer of single combat, and challenged his rival to meet him in battle, with his retainers at his back. "I will not bring the tenth part that I can make" wrote Berkeley, "but fail not to-morrow to be at Nibley Green at eight or nine of the clock, and I will not fail, with God's might and grace to meet thee at the same place."

So at the dawn of a March day in 1470, Lord Lisle left his house at Wotton, and led his little force of three hundred men towards Nibley Green.

The Berkeley men had encamped all night in Michaelwood Chase, a woodland district which still bears the name, and lies between the quaint little village of North Nibley and Tortworth.

The shrewd baron had not kept to his terms, by which he had promised to bring but a tenth part of his men. The tenants



of his brothers Maurice and Thomas, and, we are told, his friends Shipward the Mayor, and Alderman Mede, with their Bristol men, came to swell his forces.

“ And many a more, with full twelve-score  
Buff-coated Bristowe men among.

They hid their knives and told their wives  
That out with shout and merry noise  
Of hound and horn, at earliest morn  
They sought the chase its ruddy joys ;  
By Master Mayor, led on, oh ! rare  
Time for the budding 'prentice boys !

So out in state through Lawford's Gate  
They rode, and then began the race  
Down the broad slopes of Pucklechurch,  
Starting from Kingswood's Royal Chase.”

In all, the Berkeley force numbered a thousand, and on the March morning they awaited in patience the coming of the enemy. Boys from the village climbed into the trees to watch the progress of events, and more than a century later, Smyth, the Berkeley historian, whose monument may be seen in Nibley Church, learned from the sons and grandsons of these spectators the details of the encounter.

At length Lord Lisle's little army came into sight on the hilly road leading from Wotton. The Berkeley archers greeted them with a shower of arrows. One of these, shot by Black Will of Dean Forest, struck the

face of the unfortunate viscount, who was riding at the head of his men, with his visor raised. The wounded noble fell from his steed, and was despatched by the dagger-blows of his enemies in the charge which followed.

In his Battle Ballad, Kington makes Hugh de Glanville the viscount's brave esquire tell the story of the rout which followed.

“But three to one was done, and done ;  
And I tell ye, Sirs, agen  
We had scant more than fifteen score  
And they were a thousand men.

Down like a torrent tost, their host  
Came surging to the plain  
Tearing the banks of our weak ranks  
All crumbled by the rain

Of their arrow-shot ; oh ! call it not  
A battle ; it was then  
A screaming shout, a rush, a rout  
And a heap of mangled men.”

It is said that a hundred and fifty men, mainly on the vanquished side, were slain on the field of battle, or died of their wounds.

The battle-flushed victors led by Lord William and Maurice of Thornbury hastened to Wotton Manor-house, where the Lady Margaret Lisle awaited news in fear and trembling.

“ The helpless lady fled, half dead  
From the home of her lord and sire  
By terror driven, for it was given  
To plunder, sword and fire.”

For two years after the sacking of Wotton the widowed viscountess endeavoured by the tedious processes of the Law Courts to obtain satisfaction for her wrongs. She brought against Lord Berkeley a charge of having plotted the death of her husband, but the Yorkist baron found safety under the protection of the king, who employed him next year to search out Lancastrian suspects in his own shire.

In 1472 the Viscountess Lisle married again, and in the same year she relinquished all claims against Lord William of Berkeley, and accepted from him the payment of a hundred pounds per year.

The hopeless quarrel between the Talbots and the Berkeleys was continued by the relatives of the slain viscount. It became the subject of a law-suit, which, although put aside from time to time, was not finally settled until the reign of Charles II.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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### The Bold Mariners of Bristol.

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**W**e have seen in an earlier chapter, that the first written records of Bristol speak of her ships and her seamen in the days when England herself was scarcely beyond the making.

Centuries later, in the great age of discovery when the nations of Europe vied with each other in pushing their power beyond the broad seas, our country was well to the fore, and the ships and sailors of our own town took an ample share in the work of the time, winning wide renown for deeds of distant adventure. One well-known story belongs to the very beginning of this period.

In 1344, when Edward III. was king, there left the port of Bristol the vessel of Robert Machin, bound in haste for France, for the captain was flying from England with a beautiful lady. Heavy gales drove the

ship out of her course, and at length she reached the fair and distant island off the coast of Africa, now called Madeira, till then unknown to the people of Europe.

The hardships of the voyage and the fright caused by its perils, brought about the death of the lady. The sailors then departed from the island and landed on the African shore, where they were imprisoned by the terrible Moors. Accounts differ as to the fate of Robert Machin. Some say he died of grief upon the island, while others state he left it and shared the misfortunes of the crew.

Seventy-five years later in the time of Prince Henry of Portugal, famous in history for his encouragement of all which tended to discovery, two of the prince's household gentlemen found out the little isle of Porto Santo, the northern neighbour of Madeira. They asked Prince Henry to send people to settle on this new island.

At the time, the prince had in his service an aged Spanish pilot, who, many years before, had met some of Captain Machin's unlucky Bristol sailors, and had learnt from them the whereabouts of Madeira. Prince Henry sent the Spaniard with the party of Portuguese who sailed to colonize Porto Santo, and under his guidance Madeira was re-discovered. Soon afterwards it was



colonized by Prince Henry's people, and a Portuguese island it remains to this day.

Later on, Prince Henry's mariners discovered the Cape Verde Islands, and there is no doubt that the interest aroused by these, and the achievements of eastern voyagers, helped to revive the belief of European sailors, in the existence beyond the western ocean of the Island of Brasylle and the seven lost cities, which had been the subject of old traditions of the sea.

It was in 1480, William Wyrcestre tells us, that his nephew John Jay sailed from Bristol under Captain Llyde (or Lloyd) in search of these mystic places. Seven such expeditions, all of them fruitless, sailed from our port in seven successive years.

Then came an adventure of real importance. In 1496, there abode in Bristol one John Cabot, a native of Genoa like Christopher Columbus, but an adopted citizen of Venice. He obtained from King Henry VII. for himself and his three sons Lewis, Sebastian and Sanctus, permission to sail in search of new lands. Bristol was to be his starting-place, and to Bristol alone was he to return. He was to give the king one-fifth of all the gain he made by his travels.

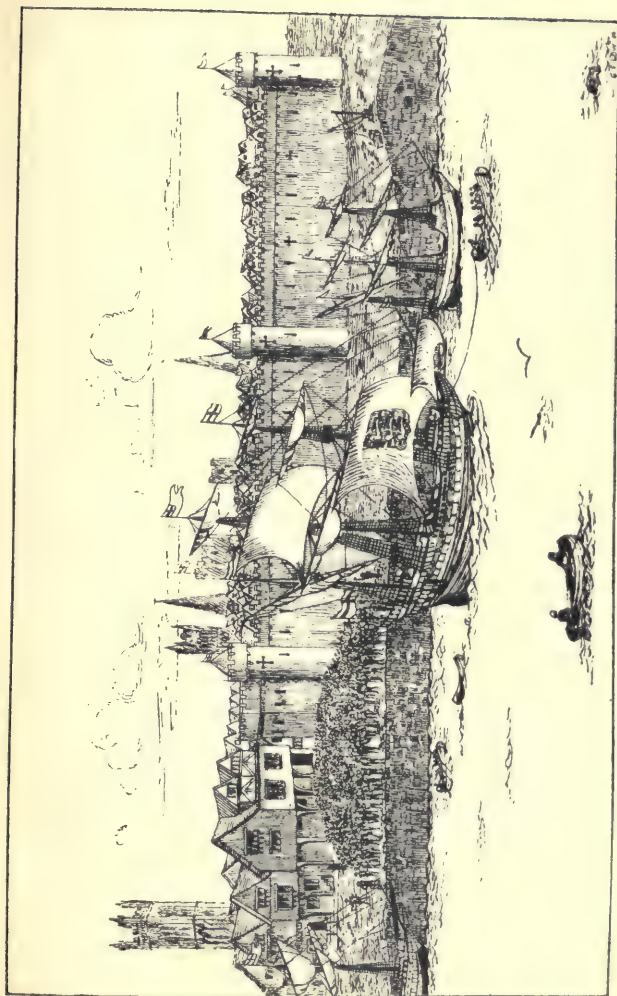
Two hundred years before this, the celebrated Venetian traveller Marco Polo,

had written his accounts of China, the land of the Great Khan, which he had reached by a wonderful eastward and overland journey. Cabot, like Columbus, hoped to reach China, or Cathay as it was then called by sailing westward across the great, unexplored Atlantic. Like Columbus, he lived and died believing he had accomplished the feat of voyaging to Asia.

One day in May 1497, so runs the story, there sailed down our Avon the little ship "Matthew," bearing a crew of eighteen sailors, mostly men of Bristol, and commanded by John Cabot. Before June was ended, the voyagers reached the coast of North America. We shall never know the spot where Cabot landed, but we are almost sure it was somewhere between Cape Breton Island and Hawke Bay on the coast of Labrador. He sailed along near the mainland coast, perhaps in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and was able to note that the land was peopled by men who were skilful fishers and cunning hunters.

In the beginning of August, John Cabot returned to England, and was received with honours by the king.

If this account is true, and it is generally believed to be so, the mainland of North America was seen by Cabot and his Bristol men, a year before Columbus on his third



BRISTOL IN 1497. THE DEPARTURE OF CABOT.  
*From a Drawing by G. F. Lou.*

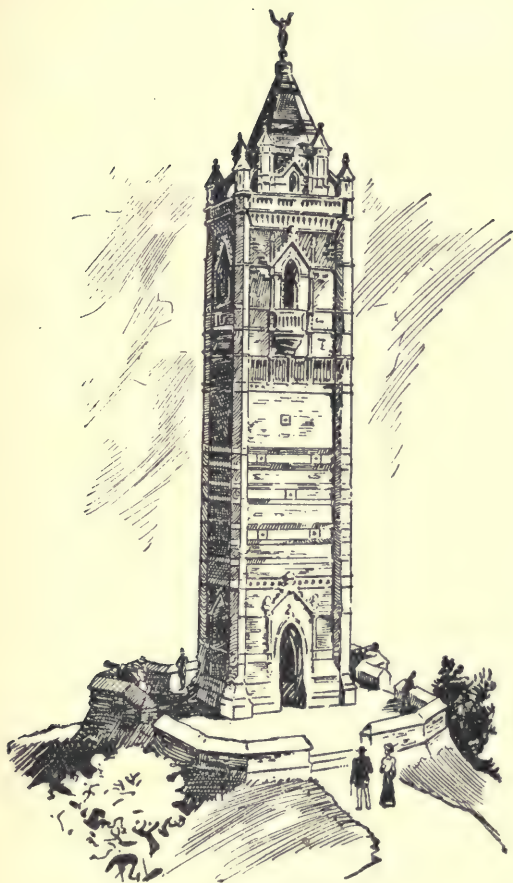
great voyage sighted the shores of the southern portion of the New World.

It is very likely that Sebastian Cabot sailed with his father on board the "Matthew." He claimed that honour, but his accounts of himself are far from being reliable. He told an English friend that he was born in Bristol, but was taken at the age of four to Venice, where he spent his youth. At another time, however, he told the Venetian ambassador that Venice was his native place. We have no proof of either of these statements, but the general belief of English writers is that Sebastian Cabot, the trusted servant of Henry VII., Henry VIII., and Edward VI. of England, Ferdinand II. of Spain, and the Emperor Charles V., was a native of our city.

On St. Augustine's Bridge, the busy centre of the modern city, is placed the tablet which tells in simple words the proudest boast of Bristol's maritime history :

FROM THIS PORT  
JOHN CABOT AND HIS SON SEBASTIAN  
(WHO WAS BORN IN BRISTOL)  
SAILED IN THE SHIP MATTHEW, A.D. 1497,  
AND  
DISCOVERED THE CONTINENT OF AMERICA.

Four hundred years after the great voyage



CABOT TOWER.



of the little ship, a former Governor-General of Canada, the late Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, came to Bristol to lay the foundation stone of the Cabot Tower, the most conspicuous of Bristol landmarks, and one of the most interesting of Bristol memorials.

In 1557, six years before his death, Sebastian Cabot became the first Governor of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of London.

In 1552, Bristol followed the lead of the capital, and the famous company of Merchant Venturers of Bristol became established under the authority of Edward VI. The ancient Guild of Merchants had long since disappeared. To some extent its place had been taken by a Fellowship of Merchants, and to this body King Edward gave a new title and new powers. The Merchant Venturers had for a long time sole control over the export trade of Bristol, and for a much longer period did all the good that was done for the port.

Robert Thorne and his sons Nicholas and Robert, whose names we honour because they are associated with the founding of our ancient Grammar School in 1532, were among the pioneers of English trade with the West Indies.

During their time, Bristol ships carried our trade to Sicily, Crete and the Levant. These merchantmen sailed heavily armed, and bore fighting men for their crews, for the dreaded

pirates of Algiers were ever on the watch to plunder the ships of Europe, and carry their sailors into captivity.

Readers of such stories as "Westward Ho!" which tell of adventures on the Spanish Main, and of incessant fighting between Don and Briton, during the time of the great sea-struggle,

"When Britain won her proudest bays,  
In good Queen Bess's glorious days,"

will expect to hear that Bristol sailors played their part, and it was so.

In 1576, a ship belonging to Andrew Barker of Bristol was seized by the Spaniards at the Canary Islands. Barker, after the fashion of his times, made war on his own account. He equipped two vessels, the "Bear" and the "Ragged Staff," and sailed in command of them to Trinidad. There he fought a treasure-laden Spanish frigate and captured her. After the fight, Barker was left ashore by his crew in Honduras Bay, and was slain by the Spaniards. His chief officer, Cox, then sailed away with the captured frigate, and all the plunder taken, but was shipwrecked on his way home. When he did reach England he was called to account for the death of the ill-fated Bristol privateer.

Four Bristol vessels, the "Great Unicorn," the "Minion," the "Handmaid," and the

"Aid," formed part of the gallant fleet with which Lord Howard of Effingham discomfited the "Great Armada," in 1588. The achievement of Drake in 1596, when he destroyed the fleet of the Spaniards in their own harbour of Cadiz, ranks next to the Armada itself in the naval exploits of the reign, and we read that John Hopkins, twice Mayor of Bristol, sailed his own ship on that memorable occasion.

Who has not read Lord Tennyson's stirring ballad, "The Revenge," which tells of Sir Richard Grenville's reckless fight "between the one and the fifty-three"? There is a rugged old ballad telling of another fight against odds, which took place some years later, in 1625. Here is its name :

*"The Honour of Bristol: shewing how the 'Angel Gabriel,' of Bristol, fought with three ships, who boarded as many times, wherein we cleared our decks and killed five hundred of their men, and wounded many more, and made them fly into Cales, when we lost but three men, to the Honour of the 'Angel Gabriel' of Bristol."*

The quaint title tells the tale fully enough, perhaps, but here are a few of the best verses of the old song itself:—

"This lusty ship of Bristol  
Sailed out adventurously  
Against the foes of England,  
Her strength with them to try.  
Well victualled, rigged and manned she was,  
With good provision still  
Which made men cry, 'To sea, to sea,'  
With the Angel Gabriel.

\* \* \* \*

The Captain, famous Netherway  
(That was his noble name) :  
The Master—he was called John Mines—  
A mariner of fame :  
The Gunner, Thomas Watson,  
A man of perfect skill :  
With many another valiant heart  
In the Angel Gabriel.

\* \* \* \*

Our Captain to our Master said,  
'Take courage, Master bold !'  
Our Master to the seamen said,  
Stand fast, my hearts of gold !  
Our Gunner unto all the rest,  
'Brave hearts, be valiant still !  
Fight on, fight on in the defence  
Of the Angel Gabriel !'

\* \* \* \*

Seven hours this fight continued :  
So many men lay dead,  
With Spanish blood for fathoms round  
The sea was coloured red.  
Five hundred of their fighting men  
We there outright did kill,  
And many more were hurt and maimed  
By our Angel Gabriel.

\* \* \* \*

We had within our English ship  
But only three men slain.  
And five men hurt, the which I hope  
Will soon be well again.  
At Bristol we were landed,  
And let us praise God still,  
That thus hath blest our lusty hearts,  
And our Angel Gabriel.

From the modernised version in the late W. E. HENLEY'S "Lyra Heroica," by the kind permission of the publisher.

In the reign of Elizabeth there lived a Bristol clergyman named Richard Hakluyt, who became famous as the author of "The Principal Navigations and Discoveries of the English Nation." Besides writing about discovery, he did much to encourage it in other ways. After the failure of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's last voyage, towards the equipment of which the men of our city contributed largely, "Sundry of the chiefest merchants of Bristol incited thereto by Hakluyt, who obtained from Raleigh permission to intermeddle and deale in that action," fitted out an expedition on their own account.

The worthy mariners Martin Pring and Edmund Jones in the "Speedwell" and the "Discovery" sailed around Cape Cod into Massachusetts Bay, and anchored in Plymouth Bay, in the spring of 1603. It was in this same harbour that the "Mayflower" anchored seventeen years



later, and on its shores her fugitive company the Pilgrim Fathers landed, and began to settle their colony which they called New England.

When Martin Pring's men were ashore, they encountered a body of unfriendly natives. The "Speedwell" had brought with her from Bristol two great mastiffs, Fool and Gallant, and these so frightened the Red Indians that they beat a hasty retreat. No wonder the people at home were afterwards so proud of the Bristol sea-dogs, and made them famous by putting one of them into the curious old picture entitled "Bristol mastiff charging the Indians."

Pring's name will not be forgotten by Bristolians, for his tomb may still be seen at St. Stephen's Church.

Since the times of the Cabots many attempts had been made to find a westward way to Asia. This had been accomplished in 1521 by the Portuguese navigator Magellan, who doubled Cape Horn and sailed across the Pacific to the Philippines, the Spice Islands which John Cabot had so earnestly desired to reach in the same way. Magellan was slain on one of the islands, but his Spanish ship made her way home by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

After this time the burning desire of many

navigators was to discover a north western passage to Asia, the south-western route having been found. It is said that Sebastian Cabot had sailed in quest of it, and famous mariners like Sir Martin Frobisher and the ill-fated Henry Hudson attempted the perilous task.

In 1631 the merchants of Bristol equipped a tiny vessel the "Henrietta Maria," and Captain Thomas James with a crew of nineteen men and two boys set out for the great unknown North-West. Captain James met with little luck beyond that of a safe return. He penetrated the icy waters of Hudson's Bay, and sailed into the south eastern corner of that vast inland sea. To-day this inlet, James's Bay, still bears the name of the fearless Bristol discoverer.

Under Oliver Cromwell, England gained her most important West Indian possession, when Jamaica was wrested from Spain by Admiral Penn in 1655. Sir William Penn, next to Blake of Bridgwater the greatest English seaman of his day, was a Bristol man. He lies buried in the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, and the breast-plate, helmet, sword, and banner of the great sailor and warrior, decorate a wall of the famous church.

It was largely to provide labour for the sugar plantations of the West Indies, that

England engaged in the African slave-trade. Bristol was foremost among the seaports which took part in this evil traffic. Not only were the natives of West Africa torn from their homes and conveyed in Bristol slave ships across the Atlantic, or brought to England to work in bondage here, but English prisoners such as those who took part in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion in 1685, were condemned to the same cruel fate.

When Judge Jefferies came to Bristol during his assize of 1685, he found the shameful practice of kidnapping children for exportation to the West Indies was tolerated by the magistrates and encouraged by some of the merchants. Jefferies caused the Mayor of Bristol to take his place like a prisoner at the bar of his court, and in the brutal language he could so readily command charged him with neglect of his duty, and, it is said, fined him £1,000 for permitting such evil things to be done in his city.

Right down to the end of the eighteenth century Bristol continued to take a great share in the slave trade, and it is recorded that at one time no less than sixty slave ships belonged to the port. Although it is not easy to believe it now, people saw no wrong in the fearful trade. "Shipped by

the grace of God" ran the old bills of lading, "so many prime negroes, all in good order, numbered and marked as per margin."

During the eighteenth century when Britain was nearly always at war with one or another of her neighbours, Bristol seamen very frequently engaged in the venturesome business of privateering.

The most celebrated of the Bristol privateers was Captain Woodes Rogers, who flourished in Queen Anne's reign. To people of the present time, some of his doings, heroic as they were, appear to have been much like piracy; but our forefathers thought lightly of such matters.

In 1708, Rogers left Bristol with the "Duke" and "Duchess," two heavily armed vessels, and sailed around the world, the voyage taking over three years. On his way he captured a Spanish ship which he brought home, and plundered others. His sailors stormed a Spanish town in South America, and bore away a vast sum of money which the inhabitants paid to save themselves and their property. He visited the island of Juan Fernandez, from which he rescued a marooned Scotchman, Alexander Selkirk, whose lonely sojourn there gave Daniel Defoe the idea of his famous story, "Robinson Crusoe." It is recorded that the value of the booty brought home by Captain

Rogers amounted to £170,000.

A quarter of a century later Commodore Anson made his more famous but strangely similar voyage round the world.

It is satisfactory to pass from such days and deeds as these, to the time when Bristol set the fashion in another and a nobler way. "Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war," and the Port of Bristol need claim no greater triumph than that she achieved when she built in her own dock-yards, and sent from her harbour, the first steamship specially designed for service between England and America. In April, 1838, the "Great Western" steamed from Bristol to New York in fifteen days and ten hours, and in May she accomplished the return journey in fourteen days.

The "Great Western" was not the first steamship to make the voyage across the Atlantic. When she was nearly ready for her trial voyage, a London company determined to anticipate the shipowners of the western port. So the steamship "Sirius," which traded between London and Cork, left the Thames on March 28th, called at Cork, which she cleared on April 4th, and reached New York Harbour on April 21st, the day before the arrival of the "Great Western."



## CHAPTER IX.

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### Religious Changes.

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**I**T is a grand thing that the laws of our time permit all persons to worship God in the ways they think right. We cannot be too thankful that we live in times when the ways of peace are more in men's minds than the deeds of strife. Just as bloodshed and the rule of the sword have given way to peaceful government, so to a very large extent, have bigoted thought and bitter persecution, given way to broad sympathies and the spirit of toleration, in matters concerning religion.

Let us take a glance at the bygone days when the laws of our land insisted that all men should think alike, and when heavy punishments awaited those who dared see anything amiss in the general ways of worship.

One of the most beautiful of our local parish churches is that of Westbury-on-



NORMAN ARCHWAY AND TOWER.



Trym. It represents the church of an ancient monastery, probably the oldest religious house built in the neighbourhood of Bristol, for its records take us back to the ninth century. At one time it attained almost the rank of a cathedral, for in the fifteenth century, the Worcester prelates styled themselves Bishops of Worcester and Westbury.

In the last years of the reign of Edward III., the greatest living Englishman was John Wyclif, Prebendary of Westbury-on-Trym, and Rector of Aust, ever-famous as the Morning Star of the Reformation.

He was a leader of the Lollards, the courageous people who, in after-years, suffered so cruelly in the defence of what they held to be the true religious faith.

John Wyclif's great work was the translation of the Old and New Testaments into English, from the ancient Latin version called the Vulgate. From 1356 until 1384, the great Lollard and his followers were engaged upon this task. There was no printing in those days, but very many manuscript copies were made, and of these a hundred and seventy still exist.

Wyclif's enemies were many and powerful, and he but narrowly escaped martyrdom. In 1382 he retired to the Leicestershire rectory of Lutterworth. There he died, and

was buried, in 1384. Many years later he was solemnly proclaimed a heretic. His remains were dug from their grave, and cast into the Swift, a stream which runs through Lutterworth and flows into the Warwickshire Avon.

The well-known words of an old writer tell us the following:—"The brook into which his ashes were thrown conveyed them into the Avon; Avon into the Severn; Severn into the narrow seas; they into the main ocean. And thus the ashes of Wyclif are the emblem of his doctrine, which is now dispersed all the world over."

One of Wyclif's personal friends, and one of his most celebrated followers often preached in Bristol. This was "Sir" John Purvey. "Sir" was the title commonly given to priests in those times, and Purvey was a priest of Lincoln. So powerful was his preaching, that Bristol became, next to London, the greatest stronghold of the Lollards. The records of Wells, to which diocese part of our town then belonged, show that the Lollards of Bristol fell under the displeasure of the law, while the accounts of a contemporary writer tell that some of these stalwart pioneers suffered persecution, and even death.

Harsh laws were passed against these early reformers in the reign of Henry IV.,



while his son, Henry V., the gallant victor of Agincourt, marred his great fame by countenancing the work of persecution. In the time of the latter, it was made a capital offence to publicly read the scriptures in English. The Lollards ceased to be heard of, and Lollardy appeared to be crushed out.

But the light of the Morning Star burned on, though dimly, and seen by but a few.

Nearly a hundred and fifty years of chance and change rolled away, and then history repeated itself in a very remarkable manner.

In the early years of Henry VIII's reign, there was often heard on Austin's Green at Bristol,—College Green we call it now,—an able young preacher named William Tyndale. He was for some years the family tutor and private chaplain to Sir John Walsh, of Sodbury. The knight's manor-house stood quite close to Sodbury Camp, of which we have already heard.

In those times the Bible was but little known to the English people, except those who were very good scholars. John Wyclif's translation had been made before the days of printing, and the manuscript copies had become few and of great price.

William Tyndale was filled with an ardent desire to give every Englishman who could read his own language, the opportunity of studying God's Word. He therefore set

about the task of translating the New Testament from the ancient Greek version. Few Englishmen were then Greek scholars, but Tyndale had studied the language in the great schools of Oxford and Cambridge.

After years of patient and secret work Tyndale left England, which was no place for such a task. It was at the German town of Wittenburg that the English version of the New Testament was completed, and it was printed at Antwerp in 1526. Many copies found their way to England, but so much was the spirit of the age opposed to the reading of the precious book, that at King Henry's orders, all the copies which could be bought were publicly burnt at St. Paul's Cross in London. Tyndale's work proceeded, and by him the Pentateuch, the Book of Jonah, and a portion of the Book of Psalms were done into English. At a later date Miles Coverdale, Bishop of Exeter, completed the work of his friend Tyndale.

The hand of persecution reached the great reformer. It is to be feared that the English king brought about his imprisonment, and in 1536, William Tyndale died a martyr's death near Brussels.

English history has no name more honoured than that of William Tyndale. Bristol City has no treasure more highly prized than its memorial of the great

translator. In the library of the well-known Baptist College in Stokes Croft, is a copy of Tyndale's first edition of the New Testament.

Just think of it. Of the 3,000 copies of Tyndale's New Testament printed at Antwerp in 1526, but two are known to be in existence. Only one of these is quite perfect, and Bristol possesses the priceless volume.

In later years the English people honoured the memory of the scholar and martyr. Twenty miles from Bristol, on Nibley Knoll, a tall peak of the Cotswolds, stands the Tyndale Monument, plainly to be seen for many miles around, and a landmark familiar to those who travel along the Bristol-and-Gloucester Road.

Very shortly after Tyndale's time, there commenced that great settlement of religious matters, known as the Reformation of the English Church. Much of the work set afoot in England by the Lollards was then carried into effect.

Not the least noteworthy feature of the change, was the sweeping away of the monastic houses and their system, which had so long played an important part in the lives of our countrymen.

Bristol was known, far and wide, for its monasteries. Foremost amongst these was

the ancient Abbey of St. Augustine. Its great gateway still stands, hard by the Cathedral; and it is so exquisite an example of early building, that Bristolians justly rank it among the chief treasures of their city. An inscription upon it tells us that the great religious house to which it gave entrance was founded by Henry II. and "Lord Robert, son of Harding, son of the King of the Danes." The Chapter House of our Cathedral, part of Fitzharding's original building, has been described as one of the most perfect specimens of a Norman apartment left to us.

We still possess some interesting remains of the Dominican Friary, built in the thirteenth century by Sir Maurice de Gaunt, a grandson of Robert Fitzharding, the founder of St. Augustine's Abbey.

Very few scholars meet in so ancient or so interesting a place as do those of Rosemary Street Girls' School. They have their lessons every day in a large room which was once the dormitory (or perhaps the refectory) of the old monastery; and their playground partly consists of a portion of the cloisters, where the solemn Black Friars paced to and fro during their few spare hours.

On St. James's Parade, you may still discover bits of the once famous Benedictine Priory, founded by Robert, Earl of Gloucester,

when Stephen the Usurper ruled.

The Grey Friars, or Franciscans, had their home near Lewin's Mead, and a tiny fragment may be examined by anyone who cares to thread the narrow bye-street leading out of that thoroughfare next the Unitarian Chapel.

The Carmelites, or White Friars, had a monastery on the ground now occupied by Colston Hall.

The exquisite building we now call the Lord Mayor's Chapel, once belonged to St. Mark's Hospital, or Gaunt's Hospital, which owed its origin to the founder of the Dominican Friary.

At the foot of Christmas Steps, you can peep through the pretty Early English doorway which once gave entrance to the Hospital and Priory of St. Bartholomew, a building which, in later days, housed first the Grammar School and then the City School.

There were other religious houses such as the Benedictine Nunnery of St. Mary Magdalene, which Eva, wife of the great Earl of Gloucester, built at the foot of St. Michael's Hill, and the Hospital of St. Catherine at Brightbow.

All of these were flourishing in Tudor times, but between the years 1536 and 1540 they shared the fate of similar establishments throughout the land.

The last Abbot of St. Augustine's was



William Morgan, who held office from 1537 to 1539. In the latter year the Abbey was suppressed, and Abbot Morgan was granted an annual pension of eighty pounds. In 1542, King Henry VIII. created the See of Bristol. The Abbey Church of St. Augustine then became the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity. Paul Bush of Salisbury, became the first Bishop of Bristol, and the town was henceforth to be a city. The western half of the great church had been in a ruinous condition for over two centuries. Between the year 1539 and 1542 this portion was almost entirely destroyed, and it was not until 1877 that the present nave was opened.

The See of Bristol was united with that of Gloucester in 1836, but in 1898 Bristol again became a separate bishopric.

Under Edward VI. the reformation went on, and his time was one of great destruction. Much of the silver taken from the churches was made into money. At Bristol the work of coining was carried on at the Castle Mint, under the supervision of Sir William Sharington.

Sharington was a scheming, avaricious man. Very much of the money coined by him was base, for it contained but a third part of pure metal. The discontent caused by the issue of this debased coinage was



BRISTOL CATHEDRAL.



one of the things which set afoot a dangerous revolt in the western counties, and Bristol was called upon to supply funds for the suppression of the rebellion.

King Edward VI. was under age, and the regent who governed the country for him was his uncle, the Duke of Somerset. A plot was formed for the overthrow of the Protector by his brother Lord Seymour, the Lord High Admiral of England. Sir William Sharington joined in this at first, but when he found himself in danger, he betrayed his leader, to whom he had advanced a large sum of money. Lord Seymour suffered death for his treason to his brother, but the traitor and false coiner Sharington escaped.

England passed through dark times when Edward's sister Mary became Queen, and tried to undo many of the changes wrought during the reigns of her father and brother.

The old rule against the marriage of clergymen was again enforced. Paul Bush, the Bishop of Bristol, was a married man, and rather than give up his wife, he resigned his see in 1554.

His successor was Bishop Holyman. He held office during a time when those who remained true to the forms of worship established in Edward VI's reign were bitterly persecuted. But it is recorded,

greatly to his honour, that he would take no part in the harsh doings of the period.

There are not wanting names of Bristol men who died for their faith in Mary's reign. So far as we know, all of these were of the working class. They perished by fire at the ancient place of execution. This was just outside the city's bounds at Bewell or Highbury.

A hundred years before this William Wyrcestre had written of the place. In the account of one of his walks, he states that he journeyed up St. Michael's Hill and reached the cross-roads near which stood the gallows where traitors and robbers were executed. Highbury Congregational Church now stands at this corner. A tablet in that building bears the names of five men, who in Queen Mary's time, "for the avowal of their Christian faith were burnt to death on the ground upon which this chapel is erected."

A time of settlement came when Mary's sister Elizabeth reigned in England. A very important outcome of the dissolution of the monasteries was then seen. These houses had done much to relieve the very poor, especially those of the vagrant class. Some provision had now to be made for these, and after the matter had been under consideration for many years the famous Poor Law of 1601 was passed. After







ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL (THE OLD MINT).

this taxes were to be imposed, in order that the most destitute might be supported, and workhouses were to be built for them if necessary.

It was not until 1698 that the first workhouse was established. The building used was the picturesque old Bristol mansion we now call St. Peter's Hospital. This fine house has had a varied history. Built as a gentleman's residence in the reign of Henry IV., it became in much later times a sugar refinery. From 1695 to 1697 it was used as the Mint, and it is often called by this name still. It now forms the office of the Bristol Board of Guardians.

Queen Elizabeth came to Bristol in 1574, and was royally entertained during her week's stay in the city.

The Great Queen entered Bristol by way of Lawford's Gate, and was met, amid great rejoicing, by the mayor, aldermen and the trade companies. At every point there was much speech-making. We are told that on her arrival the queen was addressed by "an excellent boye" who was attired to represent Fame. At St. John's Gate in Broad Street, Her Majesty listened to the delivery of speeches by Salutation, Gratulation, and Good-Will, and the city expressed its great joy at the queen's presence by the firing of many cannons.

There is still preserved an entertaining account of the visit, published a year later, in 1575, by one Thomas Churchyard. This gentleman was paid £6 13s. 4d. for the share he took in managing the festivities, which included the arrangement of the speeches.

The oration which follows is worth reading, if only to show the spelling, oratory and poetry, which pleased our forefathers in the year when William Shakespeare was a schoolboy of ten

“SALUTACION THE FIRST BOYE.”

“All hayll, O plant of grace, and speshall sprout  
of fame,  
Most welcome to this western coest, O perl and  
princely Daem,  
As loe a custom is whear humble subjects dwells,  
When Prynce approacheth neer their vew for joy  
to ring their bells ;  
So all that beareth lief in Bristowe now this daye  
Salutes the Queen from depth of breast with  
welcome ev’ry way,  
And we poor silly boyes, that cam from skool of  
late,  
Rejoice and clap our hands withall, as members  
of thy staet.”

At the Castle, there were no buildings fit to accommodate the royal guest. The state apartments which had once been the glory of the Inner Ward were quite ruinous. The Great House of Sir John Young, on St.

Augustine's Back, which had recently been built on the site of the Carmelites' Monastery, had the honour of being the queen's home during her stay in Bristol. This Great House became in later years the Colston School, and such it remained until the building was pulled down to make room for Colston Hall which was opened in 1867.

On the Sunday of her stay, the queen repaired to "The Colledge" (the Cathedral), "to hear a sarmond" and "a speetch to be sayd" by the schoolmaster, "and an imme to be songe by a very fien boye." The story tells that matters did not go well on the Sunday, but this was not through any fault of the "boye."

During the week, the citizens prepared a grand pageant, which took the form of mimic battles, mock sieges, and sham fights between ships upon the river. In spite of all the speeches, the Queen was vastly pleased at her entertainment. She spoke in admiration of the stately Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, which she described as: "The fairest, the goodliest and most famous parish church in England."

A long period of violent unrest commenced with the time of Stuart rule. At one time severe laws were enacted against those who refused to use the Book of Common Prayer; at another, its use was



prohibited with like severity.

After the fall of Archbishop Laud and the ruin of the Royalist cause, the clergy of the Established Church, in Bristol as in other places, passed through troublous times. Some were deprived of their livings and their places filled by dissenting preachers. Several of the Nonconformist sects became firmly settled in Bristol. One of the oldest of their buildings, the Baptist Meeting House, in the Pithay, is still standing, and bears above its doorway the date 1653. Famous churches were founded by bodies of worshippers, in the Castle Green and Broadmead.

It is very sad to think of the hardships endured by many devout citizens in the reign of Charles II., when the harsh laws of the Clarendon Code were passed. The Quakers, Baptists and Independents were given no peace in Bristol. They sought refuge and held their meetings at such places as the rocky banks of the Avon at Hanham and Conham, in St. Anne's Wood at Brislington, and in the sheltered valleys near the city.

The City Libraries contain copies of a volume entitled "The Records of a Church of Christ meeting in Broadmead, Bristol, A.D. 1640 to A.D. 1688." The author wrote of his own times, and we may learn from him many matters of general interest

to Bristolians, as well as the story of the afflictions which beset the church from without, and the disputes which distracted it within. In these happier days, it is hardly possible for anyone to read such a book without admiring the brave, firm spirit which sustained these Bristolians of the older time, through the long years of their dangers and troubles.

When Charles I. married the Princess Henrietta Maria of France, a Roman Catholic, it was arranged that the children of the royal pair should be educated by their mother. Parliament was no party to this, and grave national difficulties followed in later times.

Charles II. died a Roman Catholic, while James II. at all times honestly avowed himself to be one, though his profession of faith cost him great loss of office before he became King, and afterwards cost him his throne.

When, in 1685 the Duke of Monmouth set about his rebellion, those who joined him did so mainly because they feared the new king, James II., would establish the Roman Catholic worship in England.

Monmouth's great plan was to capture Bristol, which was still the second city of the kingdom. His scouts came very near the town, but his army approached no closer

than Keynsham. There his men were badly beaten by a small force of horsemen sent out by the Duke of Beaufort.

After the fatal Battle of Sedgemoor, the Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys came to Bristol while on his infamous circuit. Three of the men charged at the Bristol Assize with taking part in Monmouth's revolt were executed.

In 1688 James II. for a second time tried to gain freedom of worship for those of his own faith, by issuing a Declaration of Indulgence. This he ordered the clergy to read from their pulpits. Thereupon seven of the bishops drew up a petition against the order, and presented it to the king. For this they were committed to the Tower of London, and brought to trial. When they were acquitted, there was wild joy in England, and Whigs and Tories, Churchmen and Dissenters shared in the gladness at the king's discomfiture.

Amongst the famous Seven Bishops were Jonathan Trelawney, of Bristol, and his predecessor, John Lake, then of Chichester.

Sir Jonathan Trelawney, besides being a bishop, was a wealthy baronet, and possessed large estates in Cornwall, where he was greatly beloved.

It was while the Seven were awaiting trial, that the men of Trelawney's county rose in revolt, and sang their threatening "Song of

the Western Men," which contained the celebrated lines :—

And shall Trelawney die ?  
There's twenty thousand Cornishmen  
Will know the reason why !

King James's unwise prosecution of the bishops was the step which led to his downfall. Immediately after the acquittal, several leading statesmen wrote to Prince William of Orange and invited him to become King of England. The Revolution followed, and under William III., the leader of the Protestants of Europe, England became what it has since remained, a land famous for the freedom of worship enjoyed by its people.

King William III.'s life-long foe was Louis XIV., of France. The Huguenots or French Protestants, had been free from persecution since 1598, when Henry IV., the valiant "Henry of Navarre" of Lord Macaulay's famous poem, had issued the Edict of Nantes.

In 1685 Louis XIV. withdrew the Edict, and thousands of terror-stricken Huguenots left their native land. Large numbers settled in England, and many families took up their abode in Bristol. There are few more pleasing incidents in our local history than the welcome extended to these French exiles. The beautiful church of the old hospital of St. Mark had passed into the

hands of the Bristol Corporation, and shortly after the settlement of the refugees, they were granted the use of it as their place of worship. There the French people met for divine service until 1720. In that year the mayor and corporation decided to make St. Mark's the Civic Church, and so we know it to-day as the Lord Mayor's Chapel.

The Huguenots soon proved themselves good citizens, and several of them took important places in the trade and government of Bristol. Many families of to-day bear names which point to their descent from the French immigrants. One of these names is especially well-known; it is that of Peloquin. In 1768 Mrs. Mary Ann Peloquin left to the city the large amount of £15,200. Of this the capital sum of £10,000 is used for educational purposes, and it is from this source that there have been established the Peloquin Scholarships, which have benefited so many of the boys of Bristol.

When the eighteenth century was still young, Bristol became the scene of the early labours of the founders of Methodism. The eloquent George Whitefield was here early in 1736, and he was soon followed by the still more famous John Wesley. In no place did these powerful preachers appeal to the hearts of men with more success than in Bristol, the "cradle of Methodism." Here



was built the first Methodist meeting-house, Wesley's "Room," between Broadmead and the Horsefair. Human effort has seldom been more richly rewarded than was the preaching of these faithful servants of God to the rugged miners of Kingswood, then one of the most lawless of districts. The colliers flocked to the open-air meetings. They were joined by crowds of people of all ranks who went out from Bristol, and Whitefield and Wesley preached to vast assemblies, which amounted in some cases to ten thousand persons.

It would be difficult to say how much the people of the great industrial district which stretches eastward from our city, owe to the great Christian influence of those famous missionaries.

## CHAPTER X.

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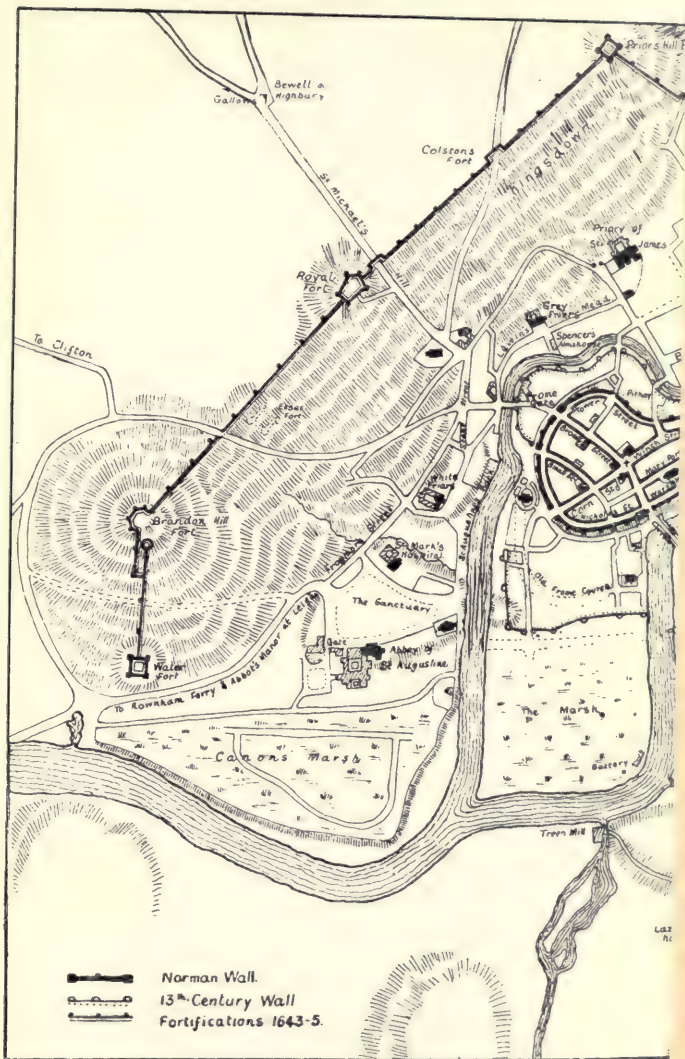
# Bristol during the Great Civil War.

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**N**EITHER the history of Bristol nor that of England, has any chapter more stirring than the one which tells of the stormy days when the Stuart kings struggled against their parliaments.

James I was seldom or never on good terms with the House of Commons, and he ended his reign no favourite with the people. He desired to rule the land with unchecked will, as the Tudor monarchs had mostly done. But James lacked the power and the tact of his predecessors, and circumstances were less in his favour. All through his reign, there smouldered the fires of discontent which were to burst into fierce, destructive flames, during the reign of his ill-fated son, Charles I.

Yet the people of Bristol were by no means predisposed to disloyalty in the days of King



HISTORICAL MAP OF BRISTOL SHEWING THE ANCIENT WALL AND THE OLD RELIGIOUS PLACES



ALLS, THE FORTIFICATIONS OF 1643-5,  
HOUSES.

James. In 1612, the king's wife, Queen Anne of Denmark, visited the city. So heartily was she entertained by the citizens, and so favourably was she impressed with what she saw, that she declared she had never known she was Queen until she came to Bristol.

In the first year of his reign, the king was petitioned by the people respecting the condition of the castle. Queen Elizabeth had bestowed upon Sir John Stafford of Thornbury, as a reward for his valiant services, the post of Constable. The income derived from this office remained the same as in the reign of Edward III, twenty pounds per annum. Many dwelling-houses were built within the walls of the old fortress, and the constable permitted people of the most questionable character to occupy them. At one time no less than forty-nine families, comprising two hundred and forty persons, dwelt in this settlement. The castle had never been brought under the town government, and at the time of which we are speaking, it became the abode of vagrants, thieves and law-breakers of all kinds.

After the sending of the petition, much was said but little was done, and matters did not mend greatly until the next reign. In 1631, the Corporation of Bristol bought the



ancient stronghold for a sum amounting in all to about £1,500. In the previous year it had passed by Royal Charter under the jurisdiction of the city.

James I came into conflict with the Bristol citizens by insisting upon the old privilege of Purveyance, according to which the king could, at his pleasure, claim provisions for the use of his household, making little or no payment for them.

Charles I, at a time of peace in 1634, extorted from Bristol, Ship Money amounting to £6,500. About the same time he made himself unpopular by means of serious interference with local trade. He granted a monopoly in soap to a London company, and strictly limited the manufacture in Bristol, in respect of quantity, quality and price.

The king resorted to such irregular means of obtaining money, because he found it impossible to agree with Parliament, which by this time had established its claim to be the sole channel through which the national supply of money could legally come.

The breach between King and Parliament widened until, in 1642, Charles having refused his assent to the Militia Bill, the great Civil War broke out.

From the outset London was against the King, and Bristol, the second city, was speedily occupied by the troops of Parliament.

Colonel Nathanael Fiennes, a peer's son and an able lawyer, was made Governor, displacing the dissolute and inefficient Colonel Essex, who had held command for a short time.

Fiennes was a man of great industry, and a capable organiser, but although he had borne himself bravely at Edgehill, he was really, as he himself admitted later, "no soldier."

At first the king's forces did well in the West of England. The year 1643 saw the brave exploits of an army of Cornishmen, led by Sir Ralph Hopton and his noble lieutenant, Sir Bevil Grenville. In May, the roundhead army, led by the Earl of Stamford, was severely defeated by the Cornish cavaliers at Stratton near Bude.

Hopton and Grenville then led their men through Devon and Somerset, intending to join the main forces of King Charles, whose headquarters were at Oxford.

When they reached the neighbourhood of Bath, they found their progress barred by a strong parliamentary force commanded by Sir William Waller, a personal friend of Sir Ralph's, and so successful a general that he had gained the nickname William the Conqueror.

Sir Ralph had hoped to occupy Bath, but this was prevented by the tactics of the op-

posing leader. So the royalist commander passed around the north-east of Bath, and came to Lansdown, which he found occupied by Sir William Waller's men.

On the 5th of July, 1643, was fought the desperate Battle of Lansdown. Through the night of the combat, the flashes from the cannon could be plainly seen, and the roar of the firing heard by the people on the hills of Bristol. The result of the fight was a doubtful one. Waller's men were driven from their entrenchments, and were forced to retire into Bath. But the king's army suffered a terrible loss by the death of the brave Sir Bevil Grenville.

\*"It was a fierce and fatal fight, that day  
Saw England's soil deep stained with England's  
blood,  
By British brothers shed. In stern array  
On the hill's side, the host of Waller stood;  
Then rush'd upon their foemen like a flood,—  
And like a flood receding, back they came;  
Till gallant Grenville made his passage good,  
And in the conflict fell,—leaving his name  
Upon that lofty height to live,—his deeds to fame!"

Sir Ralph Hopton was desperately wounded, and his men retired to Devizes. Here they were joined by the troops of Prince Maurice, the king's nephew, just as they

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(\* From John Draper's poem, "Somerset," by kind permission of the publishers, Messrs. Hamilton, Adams & Co., Paternoster Row.)

were about to succumb to a fierce attack made by Sir William Waller. Then followed the Battle of Roundway Down, at which the parliamentarians, although reinforced by troops from Bristol, were disastrously beaten on July 13th.

During the year Colonel Fiennes had been busily preparing for the inevitable attack upon Bristol. In spite of the niggardly support he received from Parliament, he raised the required funds in one way and another, and the work made marvellous progress.

The ancient walls were repaired and the portcullises cleaned, while the keep of the old castle was once again put into fighting trim, for it was found to be capable of bearing the weight of cannon.

In those days, the summit and slopes of the lofty ridge of land running aslant the north-west of Bristol from Brandon Hill to the end of Kingsdown, consisted almost entirely of open country, and remained so for more than a century later.

It will easily be seen that an enemy possessing field guns and holding this high land would have the city at his mercy. Fiennes therefore built a line of defence, consisting of ditch and wall, to enable his men to keep these heights, and placed forts at the most important points. The Water Fort stood at

the foot of Brandon Hill, near the river. Another fort was erected on the summit of the hill. The Windmill Fort, afterwards called the Great or Royal Fort, was on St. Michael's Hill. Jones's Fort, afterwards Colston's Fort, stood near the top of Alfred Hill. A modern house called Colston's Fort which stands opposite Portland School, is probably built on the spot. Prior's Hill Fort occupied a commanding position near the top of Nine Tree Hill.

The new line was continued directly south-eastward from Prior's Hill to Lawford's Gate, then bent to the south-west till it reached the Avon opposite Tower Harritz.

The river and the old wall of Temple and Redcliffe, strengthened for the purpose, formed the rest of the barrier.

This great outer defence was five miles in circumference, and for the manning of it, Governor Fiennes's force was a small one indeed.

While the work was proceeding, two royalist gentlemen, named Yeamans and Bowcher, formed a plot for the deliverance of the city to Prince Rupert, eldest son of King Charles's sister Elizabeth, and the dethroned King Frederick of Bohemia.

The king's nephew, Prince Rupert, will ever be remembered as one of the bravest of cavaliers, one of the most dashing leaders of



men, but one of the most unreliable and unscrupulous of generals.

In March, 1643, Prince Rupert's army of 6,000 men occupied Horfield, Westbury-on-Trym, and Durdham Down. A body of his horsemen rode right up to the historic cross-roads at Bewell or Highbury.

But the plot was discovered and the Prince retired. King Charles tried in vain to obtain pardon for the "two state martyrs," Yeamans and Bowcher. They were tried by court-martial, and were hanged as traitors outside the house of Yeamans, in Wine Street.

In July, 1643, Prince Rupert uniting with the victors of Roundway Down under his brother Prince Maurice, marched upon Bristol with a force of 20,000 men. Fiennes had but 2,300 soldiers, and his defences were weak and unfinished. Sir Ralph Hopton, the brave knight of Cornwall, was prevented by the wound received at Lansdown, from taking part in the great assault upon the Western Capital.

At three in the morning on Wednesday, July 26th, 1643, the Cornish cavaliers led by the Marquis of Hertford, made a fierce attack upon Redcliffe, but were repulsed with heavy loss. At five other points the royalists attacked the lines, but nowhere with success.

At Prior's Hill Fort, Captain Robert Blake, who in after years became the admiral whose

fame is second only to that of Nelson, beat back the fierce attack of gallant Lord Grandison, one of the best of the King's heroes, who fell mortally wounded.

Colston's Fort, or Jones's Fort, as it was then called, was boldly attacked by a handful of cavaliers armed with pikes, wrapped around with tow with which to make "wild-fire." They were badly repulsed, and sought the shelter of a stone wall hard by, while they waited for scaling ladders. Just then the dashing Prince Rupert rode up, and while he was trying to rally the men, his charger was shot in the eye by one of the defenders. With the courage that made him famous, the prince remained near the spot, urging on the assailants until another steed was brought him.

When all the other attacks seemed to have failed, Colonel Washington, with a force of three hundred dragoons attempted to break the line at a point near the present Blind Asylum. This was possibly intended as little more than a feint, but it proved successful. It was here the line was weakest, for but a shallow ditch had been dug through the millstone-grit. Frightening with their "fire-pikes" the horses of the cavalrymen who defended the point, Washington's men levelled the low wall and dashed over it. It is said that just before the great attack upon

the city was commenced, a private soldier pointed out to Colonel Fiennes the very place where Washington afterwards forced his way through. The governor, with his second-in-command, was riding around to make a final inspection of the whole of the works, and the trooper ventured to advise him to place a hundred men to specially guard the unfinished defence.

“What doth the saucy knave prate about?” said the commander, who was either too haughty to take advice from a common soldier, or so anxious about the weakness of the position that he tried to conceal the danger. Two years later when Prince Rupert held the city, this difficult part of the line was still incomplete.

Fiennes declared he would defend every inch of the ground from the outer line to the castle keep, and that if need came, he would make his flag his winding-sheet. His resolution was soon to be put to the test.

The troop which made its way through Washington’s Breach, occupied the little unfinished Essex Fort, which was close at hand.

There the shrewd leader waited for reinforcements, which soon reached him. Then the cavaliers took possession of the Cathedral, and St. Mark’s and St. Augustine’s Churches, while some of them under Colonel Washington captured the Great House on

St. Augustine's Back. But it is not likely they would have retained these positions had Colonel Fiennes shown the spirit of a soldier at that critical hour. He ordered the defenders to leave the outer barrier and shelter within the city walls.

The assailants within the lines, greatly increased in numbers, appeared before From Gate and threatened the inner defence. The harassed governor was urged by the mayor and many of the citizens to hold out no longer, but a body of brave women implored him to be true to his word and fight to the death.

These heroines of Bristol were led by Mistress Dorothy Hazard, a famous member of the Baptist community, and the wife of Matthew Hazard, the Puritan vicar of St. Ewen's since 1639. Many a local writer has enjoyed his laugh at this strong-minded lady of the olden times; she was withal a true-hearted English-woman. Mistress Hazard was a witness at the governor's trial, and part of her evidence reads as follows:—

“That when the news came that some of the enemies were entered within the line, this deponent, with divers other women, did with woolsacks and earth stop up From Gate, and when they had so done, the said women went to the gunners, and told them that if they would stand out and fight, they would stand by them, and told them they should

not want for provision."

But Fiennes looked across the Froom, and seeing that the tide was out and the besiegers were ready to wade the stream, he surrendered the city.

It is said that less than a score of round-heads fell during the siege, while the royalists lost between 1,000 and 1,400 men in the attack, which a writer on the King's side declared to be "the hottest that ever was since the war began."

The ex-governor was tried by court-martial, found guilty, and condemned to death; but powerful friends intervened and his life was spared. Of the army of the parliament many men went over to the king's side. The others were allowed to march out of the city with their arms and baggage.

In the year 1643, when the talk was of

"Bristol taking,  
Exeter shaking,  
Gloucester quaking,"

as the old rhyme has it, the hopes of the king's party ran high.

Exeter was indeed taken by Prince Maurice, and the king himself assailed Gloucester. Had that city fallen, the king's fortunes might have been saved. The defenders were reduced to their last barrel of gunpowder.

"Waller is extinct and Essex cannot come," said the jubilant monarch. But



Essex did come; and in September, 1643, he raised the siege. From that time the king's fortunes waned.

During the interval between the two great sieges of Bristol, Queen Henrietta Maria paid a short visit to the city. The Council "presented" her with £500 in silver, as a "token of their love," but the larger portion of the amount was raised, with great difficulty, by taxing the poverty-stricken townsmen.

After the disastrous Royalist defeat at Naseby in June, 1645, only the West remained to the King. In July, Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell snatched Somerset from him. After taking Bridgwater, Bath and Sherborne they set about the recapture of Bristol, but not without misgivings, for it was known that the plague raged terribly within the walls, and deaths were occurring at the rate of a hundred every week, and they almost feared to approach such a place.

Prince Rupert, assisted by an able engineer, Sir Bernard de Gomme, had greatly strengthened the defences thrown up by Nathanael Fiennes. The Windmill Fort had become the Great or Royal Fort, a pentagonal stronghold, more reliable than the castle itself. Jones's Fort was re-named Colston's Fort, after its commander, William Colston, a relative of the great philanthropist, Edward Colston.

In August, 1645, the victorious army of Sir Thomas Fairfax, Commander-in-chief of the Parliamentary forces, with the Lieutenant-General of Horse, Oliver Cromwell, drew near to Bristol. Prince Rupert sought to check their advance by laying waste the districts around the city. Parts of Clifton and Bedminster, and the College of Westbury-on-Trym, which Rupert had himself occupied three years before, were destroyed. The villages of Keynsham, Brislington, Hanham and Stapleton were barely saved, by a dashing advance of the roundheads.

On August 21st, Fairfax marched by way of Chew Magna and Keynsham, and slept at Hanham. Later he moved to Stoke House (Duchess's House), Stapleton, and then to Montpelier, making his headquarters at a farm which once stood at the top of Cromwell Road. Cromwell stationed himself first at Wickham Bridge, and then upon Ashley Hill.

Then the parliamentary army disposed itself about Bristol, hemming it in on every point. So tightly was the cordon drawn, that "not a pailful of milk or a basket of eggs" could be carried into the beleaguered city.

Prince Rupert expected King Charles would come to his relief, and believed he could hold the city against all comers for at least four months. There was to be no help, however. Although Rupert knew it

not, the royal cause in England was utterly ruined, and thereafter, there was to be no greater battle in its behalf than that which raged about the outworks of Bristol.

The army of Fairfax and Cromwell was weak in artillery, almost the only large cannons being those placed in Montpelier. The city, with its 5,000 men, was well-manned and better gunned. Cromwell's report on the siege stated that no less than 140 pieces were captured, when the city fell. Within the walls, however, the plague and disloyalty raged.

Heavy rains fell almost incessantly from August 23rd until September 4th. During this time, six dashing sorties were made by Rupert's men. In one of the first of these was slain Sir Richard Crane, who had commanded King Charles's cavalry at Marston Moor, in 1644. While the blockade was proceeding, the fleet of the parliament, commanded by Admiral Moulton, sailed into the Bristol Channel and captured the fort at Portishead. A detachment of bluejackets came up the Avon to assist the besiegers.

The parliamentary generals now decided to abandon the slow process of blockade, and to attempt to capture the city by storm.

On September 4th, the weather having cleared, the great guns upon Montpelier were directed against the Prior's Hill Fort, and

their missiles flew across the valley through which Cheltenham Road now runs. On the same day Sir Thomas Fairfax sent a messenger to Prince Rupert, calling upon him to yield up the city. The prince asked permission to send to King Charles about this, but Fairfax refused.

From the 6th until the 9th of September, negotiations between the commanders went on. The time of parley expired at midnight on the latter date, and at two in the morning of the 10th, great bonfires on Montpelier and Ashley Hill blazed out the signal for a grand assault.

All through the dark hours before dawn proceeded the combat, deadly and unnatural, between the sons of the same nation.

The defences at Stokes Croft, Lawford's Gate, and the Old Market Gate of the castle were soon taken. On the Somerset side the onslaught proved fruitless, so sound was the defence of the ancient wall of Redcliffe and Temple. The Royal Fort and Colston's Fort were too strong to permit of serious attack. Prior's Hill Fort was the key of the position, and just before dawn, the men who had taken Stokes Croft entered it, by making their way along the inside of the rampart, up the steep side of Kingsdown, where Hillgrove Street now runs. Then Rainsborough's men climbed the slope of Cotham, and occupied

Prior's Hill Fort, putting nearly every defender to the sword.

The critical point of the outer defence was won. Generals Fairfax and Cromwell dashed up Ninetree Hill with their men, and established themselves within the lines.

The loss of Prior's Hill was soon known to the garrison at the castle, and the great guns of the keep were brought to bear upon the captured post. One shot passed within dangerous distance of the Commander-in-Chief, and the future Lord Protector.

The city was set on fire in three places, by the desperate defenders, and then the disheartened Prince Rupert sent an offer of surrender, which the opposing general accepted.

The siege had not been a long one. From first to last, it had occupied but twenty days. But when the victors entered the city, they found it in pitiable plight. Bristol was "so unlike what it had been formerly, in its flourishing condition, that it looked now more like a prison than a city, and the people more like prisoners than citizens, being brought so low with taxations, so poor in habit and so dejected in countenance, the streets so noisome and the houses so nasty, as that they were unfit to receive friends or foemen till they were cleansed."

On Thursday, September 11th, the day



after the capture, Prince Rupert gaily attired in scarlet and silver, and accompanied by a brilliant following of ladies, lords and gentlemen, marched out of Royal Fort on his way to Oxford. Sir Thomas Fairfax journeyed across Durdham Downs with his fallen foe, and accompanied him two miles on his way. The soldiers had retained their swords, but had surrendered their firearms; but Fairfax chivalrously lent them a thousand muskets, for he knew how likely it was that the retreating force would be attacked by the country-people, to whom the name of "Prince Robber" was a hateful one.

King Charles was so much grieved at his nephew's failure that he dismissed him from his service, although he afterwards forgave him.

Three days after the fall of Bristol, the Marquis of Montrose, the king's gallant champion in Scotland was crushed at Philiphaugh, and in the following May the unfortunate monarch was a prisoner in the hands of his enemies.

On September 17, Parliament ordered a national thanksgiving for the capture of Bristol, so decisive was the victory.

In 1647, the struggle seemed to be completely ended and the outer defence of Bristol, the Fourth Wall, constructed with so much labour, was levelled.

After the execution of Charles I. in 1649, his eldest son was crowned Charles II. by the Scots. In 1651 the royalist army was completely defeated at Worcester, and Charles had the greatest difficulty in eluding his enemies and escaping from England. In the year just mentioned he passed through Bristol on his way to Abbot's Leigh, where for a while he found shelter.

Right under the walls of the fortress he passed along Lower Castle Street disguised as the serving-man of Mistress Lane, who rode on a pillion behind him, and accompanied only by a cousin of the lady's.

Upon that day, a gallant officer who had died in Ireland, was being buried with military honours in the city. Just as Charles and his companions were passing the Castle, the cannons boomed out their mournful salutes, much to the alarm of the fugitives.

The new king was no stranger to Bristol, for early in 1645 he had come to the city, although only a boy of fifteen, as General in charge of the Association of Four Counties, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. He and his retinue had lodged at the Great House in St. Augustine's, but as the mansion was not properly furnished, five town-councillors had each sent there a feather-bed, two pillows, a pair of sheets and a pair of blankets for the use of the royal guest.

In 1654-5 many of the English and Welsh Castles were dismantled at the orders of Parliament, who believed such buildings to be a menace to the public safety. An old and oft-repeated story, which is quite untrue, states that our own castle was pulled down in a fortnight. On December 27th, 1654, the Lord Protector Cromwell sent an order to demolish the castle within the City of Bristol. So welcome was this to the authorities, that they gave the Protector's messenger a present of four pounds. On January 4th, 1655, the work of destruction was commenced, and so great was the task that it was still proceeding in October, when the magistrates ordered each citizen to pay a labourer's wages one day in each week, until the work was finished. Perhaps that famous busy fortnight followed!

Much looting went on, and the magistrates had to prohibit the removal of the fine Caen stonework, which was being taken away in large quantities for private use.

The Military House, as the remains of the state apartments were long called, was spared for a while.

The ground occupied by the vast stronghold was quickly made the site of Castle Street, and less important thoroughfares, The many new houses which were erected soon hid from view the portions of the

old building allowed to remain above ground.

Thus passed to its doom the ancient fortress, palace and prison. And the shadow of the sword which had long darkened the life of the city passed away with it. Many an interested searcher after the innocent relics of the past sees with regret the gradual disappearance of the last few fragments of Bristol Castle; but no one whose study of history tells him of the tyrannies, cruelties and wrongs made possible by the existence of the mighty fortress in the days of its pride, can fail to feel thankful that such terrors, such agencies of evil, and such times have passed away from our city and our land for ever.

## CHAPTER XI.

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### Famous Bristolians.

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**A**T least a fair share of those whose lives have graced the annals of our country, have been the sons and daughters of Bristol, by birth or adoption.

Doers of gentle deeds, statesmen, warriors, discoverers, authors and scholars have already been named in this story of the city.

The names of the earliest of Bristol's benefactors are indelibly associated with the fine buildings which have gained her the name the City of Churches. Such are the Cathedral and Robert Fitzhardinge; St. Mary Redcliffe, and Simon de Burton with the two Canynges; St James's and Robert of Gloucester.

Thanks to other benefactors, Bristol has long been a place fortunate in its educational advantages, and famed for its charitable endowments.

Robert Thorne, a Bristol merchant, and his sons Robert and Nicholas, are associated



with the endowment of the Bristol Grammar School, which existed at least as long ago as 1532.

John Carr, a wealthy citizen of Elizabeth's time, founded the City School in 1586. His sister, Alice Cole, the wife of a Bristol alderman, left money which was used by the trustees, many years later in 1654, for the founding of a day school for poor children. This, the first school of its kind in Bristol, stood in St. James's Back until the beginning of the eighteenth century. The lady's name is still well-known in Bristol, from the scholarships maintained from the funds left by her.

John Whitson, the Bristol Dick Whittington, arrived in the city a poor country boy, but became a rich merchant, Alderman, Mayor, and Member of Parliament for Bristol. In the reign of James I. he founded the Red Maids' School.

No name to be found in Bristol annals is more venerated than that of Edward Colston, the philanthropist, whose noble benefactions have won world-wide renown for himself and his native place. The eldest son of a Bristol alderman, he was born here in 1636.

He amassed an immense fortune as a West Indian merchant, and the sum he expended in charities probably amounted to nearly £100,000. Bristol owes to him the



COLSTON STATUE.

founding of the Colston Almshouses on St. Michael's Hill, the Seaman's quarters in the Merchants' Alms houses in King Street, the Temple Schools, and the Colston's Hospital, now at Stapleton.

Before establishing the last-named foundation, Colston made an offer to the Bristol Corporation to enlarge John Carr's City School, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, which he had rebuilt in 1702, but the City Fathers refused his generous proposal.

Colston was returned Member of Parliament for Bristol in 1710. He died in 1721, and a splendid monument marks his resting place in the city church of All Saints.

At midnight on the 12th of November, the bells of the city churches ring muffled peals, and on the 13th, "Colston's Day," the anniversary of his birth, the leading citizens of Bristol meet together under the auspices of the famous Colston Societies to do honour to "the pious memory of Edward Colston," and to raise funds for the purposes so close to his great heart. The Parent, Dolphin, Grateful and Anchor Societies were all founded in the eighteenth century. A newer Fraternal Association aims at assisting past scholars of Colston's Hospital, while the object of the recently established University College Colston Society is the promotion of the cause of Higher Education.

Richard Reynolds, whose fame as a philanthropist almost equals that of Colston, was born at 17, Corn Street, in 1735. He became the head of the Coalbrookdale Iron-works, and during his lifetime expended in works of charity the colossal sum of £200,000. A Reynolds Commemoration Society exists to do honour to his memory.

Mary Carpenter, 1807-1877, was a pioneer in the Industrial School movement. She helped to found a school at Kingswood, which was afterwards removed to the Elizabethan house, in Park Row called the Red Lodge, and there the useful work is still carried on.

No account of Bristol benefactors would be complete without a reference to the noble work of George Müller. His Orphan Houses on Ashley Down, the homes of over 2000 children, established and maintained without contraction of debt and without solicitation of assistance, are a world's wonder. Müller was born in Prussia in 1805, and came to Bristol in 1832. Here, mainly, he abode and laboured until his death in 1898.

Almost the first of English free public libraries was that established in 1613 by Robert Redwood of Bristol. He gave, for the purpose, his house "neere the Marsh," and upon its site the late Central Free Library was built in 1740. Tobias Mathew, Archbishop of York, who was born in one of

the houses on the old Bristol Bridge, in 1546, gave many books to this institution, and several of them, some containing the Archbishop's autograph, are still in the safe-keeping of our City Librarian.

The Bristol Royal Infirmary was the first provincial institution of its kind which was supported by voluntary subscriptions. It owed its foundation chiefly to a legacy of £5,000 left by John Elbridge, a St. Michael's resident who died in 1735. The present building was commenced in 1781.

Many good men and true have represented Bristol in the House of Commons. Conspicuous among these was the celebrated Edmund Burke, who was member of Parliament from 1774 to 1784. Famous in politics as a champion of liberty, and in literature as a philosophical writer, he won even greater reputation as a master of oratory.

Lord Macaulay, one of the greatest of scholars, afterwards said of Burke, that he was "in amplitude of comprehension and richness of imagination superior to every orator, ancient or modern."

In 1894, Burke's statue in Colston's Avenue, which was presented to the city by Lord Winterstoke, was unveiled by the Earl of Rosebery, then Prime Minister.

Admiral Sir William Penn and General



Sir William Draper have already been mentioned as Bristolians renowned for deeds of war ; while it has been seen, that even the world-wide fame of Sebastian Cabot does not totally eclipse that of other Bristol navigators.

In the world of letters, the first place so far as Bristolians are concerned, must be claimed for Robert Southey, who was Poet Laureate from 1813 to 1843. In 1774 he was born at No. 9, Wine Street, where his father carried on business as a linen-draper.

Southey, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, author of the weird ballad "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," and the Quaker poet Robert Lovell, were brothers-in-law. Each married one of the daughters of Mr. Fricker, a Bristol manufacturer.

Southey lived in College Street, where he shared rooms with his friend Coleridge, also at Redcliffe Hill, and at Westbury-on-Trym. At the last-named place he wrote some of the short pieces best known to young people, such as "The Battle of Blenheim," "The Well of St. Keyne," and "The Wicked Bishop Hatto." Most schoolboys are best acquainted with Southey, as the author of the famous "Life of Nelson."

The following homely verses are taken from a ballad written by Southey at Westbury-on-Trym in 1798, and entitled

## THE CROSS ROADS.

A soldier with his knapsack on  
Came travelling o'er the down ;  
The sun was strong and he was tired ;  
And he of the old man inquired  
"How far to Bristol Town ?"

"Half an hour's walk for a young man,  
By lanes and fields and stiles ;  
But you the foot-path do not know,  
And if along the road you go  
Why then 'tis three good miles."

Southey's life was an eventful, even a romantic one, and cannot be so much as outlined here. It must, however, be told that it was a Bristol publisher, Joseph Cottle of High Street, who published the first volume of his writings, as well as the early works of Coleridge and William Wordsworth.

The saddest of Bristol stories is that of Thomas Chatterton, the Redcliffe boy who gave promise of becoming one of the greatest of English poets. He was born in 1752 in the schoolhouse attached to the Blue-coat School in Pile Street, of which his father had been the master.

At the age of eleven, Chatterton wrote and published excellent verse. At that time, he was a scholar at Colston's School, the home of which was then in the Great House in St. Augustine's, once the lodging place of

Queen Elizabeth and other royal guests.

There Chatterton remained until he was fifteen years old. By that time he was fully launched upon the clever but fraudulent work of issuing the poems of Rowley. These he pretended to be copies of ancient manuscripts found in Redcliffe Church. Really they were his own compositions. Here are two fine verses from one of these poems :

#### THE STORM.

(From "An Excelente Balade of Charitie :  
as wroten bie the gode priest, Thomas Rowleie,  
1464 ")

The gathered storm is ripe, the big drops fall ;  
The sun-burnt meadows smoke, and drink the  
rain ;

The coming ghastness doth the cattle 'pall,  
And the full-flocks are driving o'er the plain ;  
Dashed from the clouds the waters sweep again ;  
The welkin opes ; the yellow lightning flies ;  
And the hot fiery steam in mighty wreathings  
dies.

List ! now the thunder's rattling noisy sound  
Moves slowly on, and then discharging clangs,  
Shakes the high spire, and lost, expended,  
drowned,

Still on the fright'd ear of terror hangs ;  
The winds are up ; the lofty elm-tree swangs ;  
Again the lightning and the thunder pours,  
And the full clouds are burst at once in stormy  
showers.

Among the most celebrated of the boy-poet's works are the fine ballad entitled "The Bristowe Tragedy," and the poetical drama "Ælla," "wrotenn bie Thomas Rowleie," and "plaiedd before Mastre Canynge atte hys howse nempte the Rodde Lodge."

Chatterton went to London, thinking to make his fortune as a writer, but after meeting many disappointments and suffering much privation, he put an end to his life in 1770, the eighteenth year of his age.

Miss Hannah More, a lady of wide literary influence, and in her time a celebrated authoress, was born in 1745 at Fishponds, where her father was the village schoolmaster. She, with her sisters, kept a school for young ladies in Bristol, at first in Trinity Street, College Green, and afterwards at the house in Park Street which still bears her name. The street was being constructed when, in 1762, the new house was built for the Misses More.

Miss Selina Mills, who succeeded the Misses More in the management of their school, afterwards married Mr. Zachary Macaulay. Their son was Thomas Babington Macaulay, the great historian, critic, politician and poet.

Macaulay spent much time during his boyhood at Barley Wood, Miss More's home above the beautiful Vale of Wrington.

The talented and kindly lady watched the clever boy's progress with great interest, and from time to time rewarded the little successes of his childhood, by helping him to get together the books he always loved so dearly. When he was six years of age, Miss More wrote to him a letter containing the following :

“ Though you are a little boy now, you will one day, if it please God, be a man ; but long before you are a man, I hope you will be a scholar. I therefore wish you to purchase such books as will be useful and agreeable to you *then*, and that you employ this very small sum in laying a tiny corner-stone for your future library.”

Thirty years later, when Macaulay was holding an important appointment in India, and had become a famous writer and scholar, he wrote the following to his friend Napier, respecting Miss Hannah More :

. . . “ Her notice first called out my literary tastes, her presents laid the foundation of my library. . . . She really was a second mother to me. I have a real affection for her memory.”

In later years Macaulay visited his mother's native city, and resided awhile at 16, Caledonia Place, Clifton. Two years before his death, which took place in 1859, Macaulay's great services to his country



gained for him a peerage.

Sir Thomas Lawrence, President of the Royal Academy from 1820 to 1830, was born at No. 9, Redcross Street, a house which stands nearly opposite the old British School. So marvellous was the boy's talent, that at five years of age he was painting portraits, and he had become famous when he was twelve. He became portrait painter to King George IV., and at his death in 1830, was buried at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Another famous native was Edward H. Bailey, the sculptor, whose exquisite masterpiece, "Eve at the fountain," may be seen at the City Art Gallery.

Dr. Charles Wesley and Dr. Samuel Wesley, both celebrated musicians, were the sons of Charles Wesley, the brother of John Wesley. They were born at Charles Street, St. James's. Their father was one of the greatest English hymn-writers. Charles was for many years organist to George III. and George IV. His brother Samuel became an eminent composer. Like other famous Bristolians already noticed, he began work very early in life, for at the age of eight he had written an oratorio, "Ruth," upon the receipt of which, the celebrated Dr. Boyce sent his "compliments and thanks to his very ingenious brother composer."

It is impossible, within such narrow limits,

to tell of all the worthies of the past, whose memories Bristol delights to honour. There have lived, within the memories of young readers of this book, those whose good deeds have gained for their names enduring fame. And we may well believe there are yet in our midst those whose achievements in commerce, in politics, in letters, in music, in art and in good works will be known to the Bristolians of a far distant day.

## CHAPTER XII.

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### Modern Progress.

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**T**HREATENING clouds of discontent and disorder hung over many parts of the land, during the early decades of the nineteenth century. Nowhere did the storm burst more violently than in our own city in 1831, the year of the terrible Bristol riots.

The year 1830 had seen a second revolution in France, which had brought about the downfall of one king, the enthronement of another, and the establishment of a more popular form of government. Other European countries passed through troublous times also, and the feeling of unrest spread to England, where an agitation for parliamentary reform had been going on for many years.

In the southern counties, there were serious encounters between huge bodies of peasantry and forces of yeomanry, and riots took place at some of the great northern towns.



BROAD STREET A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.





Early in 1831 Lord John Russell introduced a Reform Bill, which failed. In July, the prime minister, Earl Grey, brought in another which was passed by large majorities in the House of Commons, but was rejected in October by a majority of four, in the House of Lords.

One of the leading opposers of the Reform Bill in the House of Commons was Sir Charles Wetherell. He was the Recorder of Bristol, and his political opinions made him very unpopular in the city. On Saturday October 29th, Sir Charles came to Bristol to hold the Assizes. On his way to the Guildhall he was mobbed, and on the following day, a furious rabble attacked the Mansion House in Queen Square, where he was staying. In peril of his life, he managed to escape, disguised as a postillion, and found refuge in a house on Kingsdown. The Riot Act was read, and troops of dragoons were brought into the city. Their commander, Colonel Brereton, acted with such indecision that Bristol was at the mercy of the rioters for a day and a night.

The Mansion House and the Custom House were looted and destroyed, and the dwelling houses on the north and west sides of Queen Square met the same fate. The three gaols, Bridewell, the New Cut and Lawford's Gate, were set on fire and the

prisoners allowed to escape. The Bishop's Palace was ruthlessly burnt down, and its ruins may still be seen at the rear of the Cathedral. The sacred building just named very narrowly escaped.

Early on Monday morning, Major Mackworth took command of the soldiers, and charged the mob in Queen Square and through the neighbouring streets, and the fearful disturbance was quickly brought to an end. It is probable that no fewer than five hundred of the rioters lost their lives either in the brief combat, in consequence of the shocking drunkenness in which so many of them found the opportunity to indulge, or in the flames of the houses sacked during the tumult.

It must not be imagined that the people who took part in these violent doings were those who were really anxious about political reform. It is unfortunately true, that there have rarely been wanting debased people who have been ready to seize upon such excuses for violence, and the ruffians upon whom rested the guilt of the Bristol riots of 1831, were no doubt almost entirely of this class.

Other riots took place, though none so notorious as the Bristol disturbance. It became clear that the country was in a state of dangerous excitement. Indeed, this agitation



VIEW OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL FROM PILE HILL DURING THE DREADFUL RIOTS  
ON THE NIGHT OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1831.



is sometimes spoken of as the English revolution. The Reform Bill became the Reform Law in June, 1832.

Fifty-six "rotten boroughs" lost their right to send representatives to Parliament, and the seats thus gained were divided among the counties and the great towns. Voting power was given to householders who paid rentals of £10 in towns or £40 in the country. Bristol continued to send two members to parliament until 1885, when the number was increased to four.

The Municipal Reform Act of 1835, established in Bristol and in other boroughs, the present satisfactory system of local government.

During the first half of the last century, the commercial importance of Bristol fell off very greatly. Many reasons have been given for this, but most people are now agreed as to what was really the chief cause. The docks, which had been so vastly improved by the Floating Harbour Scheme of 1809, were the property, not of the city, but of a wealthy private company. So high were the rates charged to shipowners, that they preferred to send their vessels to those enterprising seaports where more liberal terms could be obtained.

In 1848, the docks were purchased by the the corporation, and the dues charged on

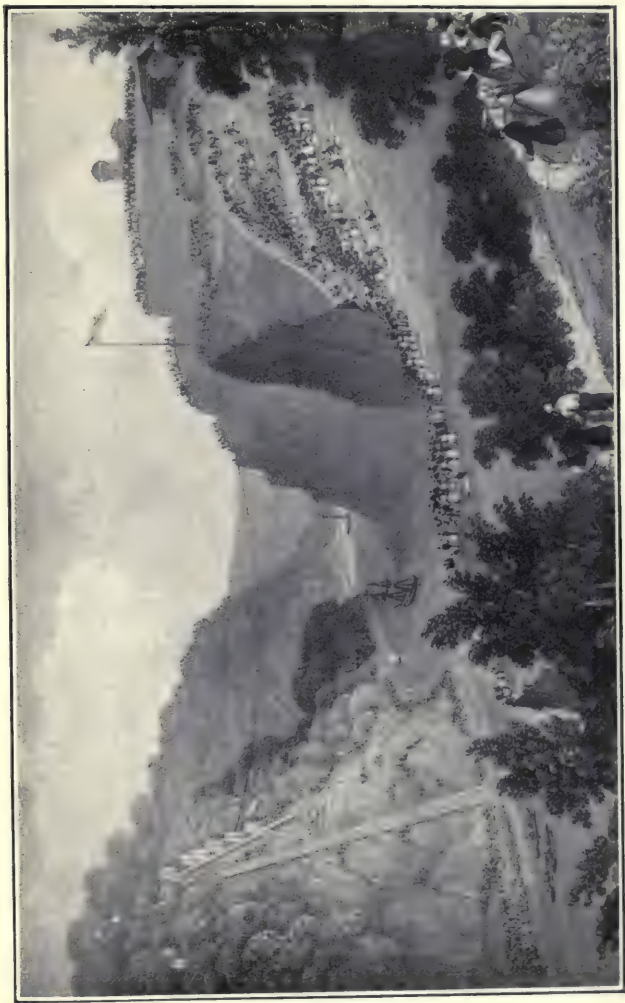


vessels and imported goods were in a short time greatly reduced. Thus in 1851, the dock rate on imported sugar fell from five shillings to eighteenpence per ton. Since the date of transfer, the trade of the port has steadily increased, as the following table will show:

Year ending April 30th,	Tonnage of ships entering port,	Dues paid £
1840	482,200	35,036
1850	643,217	28,444
1860	711,693	40,940
1870	949,051	55,244
1880	1,173,373	54,877
1890	1,293,373	86,693
1900	1,611,730	118,124
1905	2,078,343	132,790

Bristol was first reached by the rail in 1841, when the Great Western main line from Paddington to Maidenhead was extended to this city. Since then it has become a railway centre of considerable importance. One of the greatest events in local railway history was the opening, in 1886, of the Severn Tunnel, which brought Bristol into direct communication with the thriving towns of South Wales.

The inconvenient placing of the principal station at Temple Meads, leaves much to be desired; but the disadvantage is somewhat lessened by the very complete system of local communication provided by the electric



LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE ON 27TH AUGUST, 1836.



lines of the Bristol Tramways Company. The beginning of our tramway traffic was made in 1875, when a horse-line from Perry Road to Redland was opened.

A marvellous change has come over the appearance of the city during recent years. Forty years ago, the narrow, twisting irregular streets, and the antiquated, inconvenient buildings of Bristol, made it one of the queerest and most unhandsome of large towns. Visitors now declare it one of the finest of English homes of commerce.

Few, perhaps too few, of its ancient buildings have been spared in the march of improvement, but many of the worst slums have entirely disappeared. Bristolians of middle age remember the time when travellers found their way to the Joint station by threading Bath Street and Temple Street. In 1870, Victoria Street, a direct route in line with Bristol Bridge, was driven through Thomas Street and Temple Street. The route from the city to Durdham Downs via Colston Street, Perry Road and Whiteladies Road is everywhere suggestive of recent change.

New Baldwin Street, the broad commercial thoroughfare which forms the direct road from St. Augustine's Bridge to Bristol Bridge, was cut through one of the dingiest parts of the town in 1881.

Even more striking than the improvement of the central parts, has been the rapid springing up of the pleasant suburbs, which now give Bristol so enviable a reputation.

Of recent buildings perhaps the most important are the new Colston Hall, completed in 1900, containing the magnificent organ presented by Lord Winterstoke, the Art Gallery, for which the city is indebted to the same donor, and the new Central Free Library opened in 1906.

In 1897, Bristol, with its area of 4,661 acres and its population of over 230,000, was next to London and West Ham the most densely peopled of English large towns. In that year its area was extended to 11,468 acres. There was a further extension in 1904, and it now stands in an area of 17,004 acres, and possesses a population of nearly 360,000.

During the past few decades, too, Bristol has gained much prominence by reason of its excellent educational institutions.

Clifton College, which ranks among the great public schools of England, was opened in 1862. Its magnificent buildings occupy a fine position near Clifton Down. Among their noteworthy features are the Percival Buildings which contain the College Museum and Library, and commemorate the head-mastership once held by the present Bishop of Hereford; the Wilson Tower named after



Dr. Percival's successor; and the Guthrie Chapel dedicated to the memory of Canon Guthrie, a former Chairman of the College Council.

University College, founded in 1876, was removed to its present premises in Tyndall's Park in 1880. In 1892, the Bristol Medical School became part of the College. Since that date the buildings have been enlarged on two occasions. There is good reason for hoping that before many years pass, changes will be made which will bring into existence a Bristol University.

The Merchant Venturers' Technical College is certainly one of the greatest establishments of its kind to be found in the country. Its imposing buildings in Unity Street were erected in 1885 by the Society of Merchant Venturers. Its predecessor, the Bristol Trade and Mining School in Nelson Street, the first school of its kind established in Great Britain, did splendid work during its lifetime of nearly thirty years.

Opportunities for special study are also abundantly provided by such establishments as the City of Bristol and the Kensington Schools of Art, and the Clifton Laboratory.

Mention has already been made of other well-known Bristol schools, viz., The Grammar School, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Colston's School, and the Red Maids' School.

All of these ancient schools now occupy comparatively modern buildings. The Grammar School removed to Tyndall's Park in 1879, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital to Brandon Hill in 1847, and Colston's Hospital (now Colston's Boarding School), to the former Bishop's Palace in 1861; while the present Red Maids' School was built in 1840. The Cathedral School was founded in the reign of Henry VIII.

Of well-known schools for girls, there are the Redland High School which was established in 1882, and has for its premises the beautiful mansion known as Redland Court; Clifton High School founded in 1877; the Colston Girls' Day School in Cheltenham Road, opened in 1891; and the Clergy Daughters' School (St. Brandon's School), established in Gloucester in 1831, removed to St. Michael's Hill in 1836, and to its present position in Great George Street in 1861.

The famous Baptist College in Stokes Croft dates its foundation from 1679, and the Western College for students training for the Congregational ministry has recently removed from Plymouth to Bristol.

Bristol also possesses three Training Colleges for teachers in elementary schools, Fishponds College, the University Day Training College for Mistresses, and a similar Training

College for Masters. The Pupil Teachers' Centre, Broad Weir, was established in its present quarters in 1899.

The elementary schools of Bristol, Council and Voluntary, provide accommodation for no less than 66,103 children. Both Council and Voluntary Schools are, in slightly different ways, under the authority of the Bristol Education Committee, which in 1903 took the place of the Bristol School Board, a body called into existence by the famous Education Act of 1870.

Besides these, the Education Committee control three Secondary Schools, those of Fairfield, Merrywood and St. George, which together provide places for 550 scholars. The Committee make special provision for the teaching of Domestic Subjects, and for Manual Instruction and Swimming Lessons. There are also Special Schools, such as the Kingsdown Institution for deaf children, and the Redcross Street School for children who are mentally or physically deficient.

For many years, every inducement to improve their education has been offered to boys and girls who have left the day schools. During the winter season the Evening Continuation Schools, Elementary, Higher Grade and Commercial, provide opportunities for the study of every subject likely to be useful to young citizens.

It would be difficult to find a place more favoured than Bristol, in the matter of providing scholarships for promising pupils. Since the establishment of the Technical Scholarships Scheme in 1891, many young Bristolians have been enabled to win their way from the Elementary Schools to University success, and no effort is spared to bring the opportunities afforded in this and other directions before the notice of school children and their parents.

Bristol is known, far and wide, for the many excellent institutions which provide for the necessitous sick. Of these, the Royal Infirmary, opened 1737, has already been noted. The average yearly number of its in-patients exceeds three thousand, while upwards of forty thousand persons share its benefits as out-patients every year.

The General Hospital, which dates from 1832, is another splendid example of what united public effort can do. Every year, over two thousand in-patients and thirty thousand out-patients receive skilled attention at this useful institution.

The Dispensary, in Castle Green was established in 1775. It deals entirely with out-patients, and nearly eleven thousand of these receive benefit every year, either at the headquarters or at its Bedminster branch.

There are also such special institutions as

the Eye Hospital in Lower Maudlin Street, and the Ear Dispensary at Berkeley Place, Clifton.

Very few places possess an establishment like the Royal Hospital for Sick Women and Children, the Children's Hospital, as it is more familiarly called.

Foremost amongst its founders, in 1865, was the late Mr. Mark Whitwill, who during the course of a long lifetime was closely associated with many movements which tended to the welfare of his city and its people, and especially of its young people. The noble building on St. Michael's Hill forms a fitting monument to one of the truest of Bristol benefactors.

The Queen Victoria Jubilee Convalescent Home on Durdham Down is the outcome of a scheme, originated in 1897, for the city's commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria.

From first to last no smaller a sum than £130,000 was subscribed for the founding of the Home.

The day of its opening, November 15th, 1899, saw one of the most historic of Bristol occasions. Never was monarch more loyally welcomed, than was Queen Victoria when she came to the ancient city on that day, accompanied by her daughters, Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein and Princess Henry



of Battenburg, and her son the Duke of Connaught. Just before the royal lady reached the Convalescent Home, she was greeted by a vast and unusual assembly consisting of more than twenty-seven thousand school-children. These occupied a great stand built on the edge of Durdham Down. Near Black-boy Hill the royal cortège halted for a while, and few present will ever forget the affecting scene which followed. As the aged and revered monarch listened, the voices of the many thousands of children gathered to welcome her, joined in singing the British National Anthem, "God save the Queen!" Surely the words of the simple hymn with its solemn melody never conveyed more pathetic meaning, than when they fell that day upon the ears of the noble queen, whose glorious reign was so soon to close.

Outside the Council House, and thus in the very heart of the old city, the first Lord Mayor of Bristol had received from Queen Victoria's sword the knightly accolade, and became Sir Herbert Ashman.

After the ceremony of opening the Home, the queen reached Temple Meads Station by a circuitous route, through the decorated streets of the city, and at once returned to Windsor.

Another royal visit, that of the Prince and Princess of Wales, on March 5th, 1902,



CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE.



marked an occasion full of most brilliant promise for the city's welfare. Their Royal Highnesses came to inaugurate the making of a new Bristol dock at Avonmouth.

The present Avonmouth Dock, which was opened in 1877, is nineteen acres in area, and at the time of its construction, its depth exceeded that of any other dock in England. At the present time it is able to accommodate vessels up to 480 feet in length. Some of the largest ships of to-day, however, are over 800 feet long, and when the Royal Edward Dock is completed, the Port of Bristol will be able to provide accommodation for these gigantic vessels.

There is no greater folly than that of relying entirely upon past success. Bristol has a history which should be looked upon not only as interesting and famous, but as inspiring. With its present advantages, and its clear promises of future prosperity, it is a place of which no one need fear to be named a citizen. One of the greatest and withal the most modest of men, the Apostle Paul, did not hesitate to express his pride of citizenship. When such pride is accompanied by earnestness and energy, it makes for the growth of a sentiment which has a very real value, that of local patriotism.

A quarter of a century ago, when Bristol was a far less attractive place than it is now,

an account of the city was written by Mr. W. Clark Russell, an author whose stories are among the most popular of those read by young people. With a few of his words this chapter, and this little book, must be brought to a close, "If," said he, "there be no local patriotism in Bristol, I know not where it should be sought."



## APPENDIX.

### Leading dates in Local History.

Periods.		Local Events.
Roman occupation of Britain, A.D. 43—410	43—47	Aulus Plautius conquered Gloucestershire.
Founding of the English kingdoms, 449—827	577	Battle of Dyrham. Fall of Bath, Gloucester and Cirencester.
England under Saxon and Danish kings, 827—1066.	946 947— 1016 1051 and 1063	Edmund I. slain at Pucklechurch by an outlaw named Leofa. Ethelred the unready reigned. Coins minted at Bristol. Earl Harold at Bristol,

### NORMAN PERIOD.

William I., 1066—1087.	1086	Bristol and Barton mentioned in Domesday Book. Geoffrey of Coutances built walls and Castle.
William II., 1087—1100.		
Henry I., 1100—1135.		Robert Earl of Gloucester enlarged castle and extended walls.
Stephen, 1135—1154.	1141	Stephen imprisoned at Bristol Castle.
	1142—6	Prince Henry of Anjou (Henry II.) educated at Bristol.
	1142	St. Augustine's Abbey (the Cathedral) founded by Robert Fitzharding.

ii.

## THE STORY OF BRISTOL.

### PLANTAGENET PERIOD.

Periods.		Local Events.
Henry II., 1154 —1189.	1162 1167  1188	Charter granted to Bristol. Dermot of Leinster took refuge in Bristol. Earl John's Charter granted.
Richard I., 1189 —1199.		
John, 1199—1216.		
Henry III., 1216 —1272.	1216  1241 1247 1248—9	Great Council met at Bristol. Roger Cordewainer mayor of Bristol Death of Princess Eleanor. New channel of the From finished. A stone bridge built on the Avon. The Third Wall built.
Edward I., 1272 —1307.	1281 and 1284	Edward I. spent Christmas at Bristol.
Edward II., 1307 —1327.	1312—6 1327	The Great Insurrection at Bristol. Execution of Hugh Despenser. Edward II. imprisoned at Bristol and murdered at Berkeley.
Edward III., 1327 —1377.	1373	Bristol became a county. Wyclif at Westbury and Aust.
Richard II., 1377 —1399.	1384 1399	Wyclif died at Luttessworth. Castle besieged and taken by the King's enemies.

### LANCASTRIAN PERIOD.

Henry IV., 1399 —1413.	1410	Parliament held at Bristol.
Henry V., 1413 —1422.	1415	William Wyrcestre born.
Henry VI., 1422 —1461.	1456	Queen Margaret visited city.

### YORKIST PERIOD.

Edward IV., 1461 —1483.	1461 1470 1475	Execution of Sir Baldwin Fulford Battle of Wibley Green. Death of William Canynges (the younger).
Edward V., 1483. Richard III., 1483 —1485.	1479	Robert Ricart commenced the Mayor's Calendar.

# THE STORY OF BRISTOL.

iii.

## TUDOR PERIOD.

Periods.		Local Events.
Henry VII., 1485 —1509.	1497 1536—40 1542	John Cabot's great voyage. Suppression of the monasteries. St. Augustine's Abbey became the Cathedral. Paul Bush first bishop.
Henry VIII., 1509 —1547.	1526 1532	Tyndale's New Testament printed Grammar School founded.
Edward VI., 1547 —1553.	1549	Sir William Shavington in charge of the Castle Mint. Coinage debased.
Mary, 1553—1558 Elizabeth, 1558 —1603.	1574 1586	Protestants martyred at Highbury Elizabeth visited the city. John Can's endowment of City School.

## STUART PERIOD.

James I., 1603 —1625.	1612 1613	Queen Anne of Denmark visited city. Free Library founded by Robert Redwood.
Charles I., 1625 —1649.	1627 1631 1634 1643 1645	Red Maid's School founded by John Whitson. The Castle purchased by the Corporation. Ship Money levied upon Bristol. Battle of Lansdown. Bristol taken by Prince Rupert. Bristol taken by Fairfax and Cromwell.
The Common- wealth and Pro- tectorate, 1649 —1660.	1651 1656	Charles II. at Bristol and Leigh. Bristol Castle demolished.
Charles II., 1660 —1685.	1683	Charters of Bristol (and many other towns) seized by the king, but restored in the following year.
James II., 1685 —1688.	1685 1688	Monmouth's men at Keynsham. Judge Jeffreys at Bristol. Trial of the seven bishops, includ- ing Trelawney of Bristol.

# iv. THE STORY OF BRISTOL.

## STUART PERIOD—*continued.*

Periods.		Local Events.
{ William III. 1689 —1702.	1690	William III. visited Kingsweston.
	1691	Colston's Almshouses founded.
{ Mary II., 1689 —1694.	1697	Workhouse established at St. Peter's Hospital.
	1702	Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark visited Bristol.
Anne, 1702—1714	1710	Colston's School established at St. Augustine's.
	1712	Sea Mills Dock made.
	1708—11	Voyage of Captain Woodes Rogers.

## HANOVERIAN PERIOD.

George I., 1714 —1727.	1714	St Augustine's Drawbridge built.
	1721	Death of Edward Colston. (Born 1636.)
George II., 1727 —1760.	1736	William III.'s statue erected in Queen Square.
	1737	George Whitefield preached in Bristol
	1739	Bristol Infirmary opened.
	1745	John Wesley first in Bristol.
		Hannah More born at Fishponds. (Died 1833.)
	1752	Thomas Chatterton born. (Died 1770.)
	1768	Bristol Bridge rebuilt.
George III., 1760 —1820.	1769	Sir Thomas Lawrence born. (Died 1830.)
	1774	Robert Southey born at 9, Wine Street. (Died 1843.)
	1794	Nelson came to Bristol and received freedom of city.
	1804—9	Construction of New Cut and Floating Harbour.
	1809	Kennet and Avon Canal completed.
George IV., 1820 —1830.	1827	First Bristol built steamboat, the <i>Wye</i> , steamed to Chepstow.
William IV., 1830 —1837.	1831	Bristol Riots.
	1832	Bristol General Hospital founded.
	1836	Muller's Orphanage established.
	1838	First voyage of the <i>Great Western</i>
Victoria, 1837 —1901.		Great Western Railway from Maidenhead to Bristol opened.
	1844	Railway (now Midland) to Gloucester opened.
	1848	Docks transferred to the city.

HANOVERIAN PERIOD—*continued.*

Periods.		Local Events.
Victoria— <i>continued.</i>	1857	Guns captured in Crimean war mounted on Brandon Hill.
	1863	South Wales Union Railway opened.
	1864	Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Port and Pier Railway opened.
	1865	Children's Hospital opened.
	1867	Portishead Railway opened.
		Colston Hall opened.
	1869	Line from Mangotsfield to Bath, and the Cheddar Valley Railway opened.
	1871	First Bristol School Board elected. Opening of Museum and Reference Library.
	1874	Free Library Act adopted in Bristol. Clifton Extension Railway opened.
	1875	Tramway line from Perry Road to Redland opened.
	1876	University College founded.
	1877	Opening of Avonmouth Dock. New Nave of Cathedral finished (and lighted by electricity in 1878).
	1878	Prince of Wales (Edward VII.) visited Agricultural Exhibition on Durdham Down.
	1879	New Grammar School opened. Portishead Dock completed. Telephone Exchange established.
	1880	Bridewell Street Police Court opened.
	1881	Opening of New Baldwin Street.
	1884	Avonmouth and Portishead Docks transferred to the Corporation.
	1885	Bristol represented by four instead of two Members of Parliament.
	1886	First passenger train passed through Severn Tunnel.
	1887	Celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee.
	1888	Prince Albert Victor unveiled Queen Victoria's statue in College Green.



HANOVERIAN PERIOD—*continued.*

Periods.		Local Events.
Victoria— <i>continued.</i>	1889	Disastrous Froom Floods.
	1893	St. Augustine's Bridge opened.
	1894	Edmund Burke's statue unveiled by the Earl of Rosebery.
	1895	Opening of the Electric Tramway to Kingswood.
	1897	Extension of the City Boundaries.
		Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrated.
		Bristol again became a separate bishopric.
	1898	Death of George Muller. (Born 1805.)
		Colston Hall burnt.
		Cabot Tower opened.
Present reign.	1899	Queen Victoria opened the Convalescent Home.
	1900	New Colston Hall opened.
	1901	Avonmouth Dock scheme decided upon.
		West India direct service established.
	1902	Prince of Wales cut the first sod of the Royal Albert Dock, Avonmouth.
		Coronation of King Edward VII. celebrated.
	1903	Education Committee took place of School Board.
	1905	Art Gallery presented to the city by Sir W. H. Wills (now Lord Winterstoke).
		Earl Roberts unveiled statue to the Gloucestershire soldiers who died in the Boer War.
	1906	National Nautical School at Portishead opened by Princess Henry of Battenburg.
		New Central Free Library opened.







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